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RALPH TENNAL.

HISTORY  
OF  
**NEMAHA COUNTY,**  
**KANSAS**

BY  
**RALPH TENNAL**

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ILLUSTRATED

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STANDARD PUBLISHING COMPANY

LAWRENCE, KANSAS

1916

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## DEDICATION

THIS VOLUME IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO THE PEOPLE OF NEMAHA COUNTY, WHOSE WHOLE-HEARTED INTEREST IN AND LOYAL SUPPORT OF THE MERITORIOUS PROJECT OF RECORDING IN IMPERISHABLE PRINT THE WONDROUS AND VALUABLE STORY OF NEMAHA COUNTY'S INDUSTRIAL, CIVIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS FOR THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF HER SONS AND DAUGHTERS, HAVE MADE ITS PUBLICATION POSSIBLE.

RALPH TENNAL.

-Dedicated - \$40.00



## FOREWORD

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"And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh."

Ecclesiastes, xii. :xii.

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There are books and books, each purporting to fulfill a mission. Since remote times man has endeavored in some manner to leave behind him the story of his accomplishments during his brief sojourn on earth. Primitive man first chiselled on imperishable stone in various crude ways the messages which he desired transmitted to his descendants; the ancients inscribed history on tablets of clay; in all parts of the known world are found the stories of its peoples inscribed in some form on crumbling monuments, on the walls of forgotten, buried cities—the messages telling in graphic detail the story of the ancient peoples of the earth in the only manner which was possible to the inhabitants thereof.

As enlightenment came gradually through the ages, the crude methods of transmitting knowledge in vogue for untold centuries gave way to the written and printed pages which we have today, when the ability to read is universal throughout the land.

Books have multiplied until their number is incalculable. A good book is a friend and companion. A book of history is not only entertaining, useful, enlightening, but it is valuable and stimulating. We are inspired by the tales of accomplishment by our forefathers to do even greater things than they. We likewise take a just pride in our own deeds and successes. Macauley once wrote: "Show me a country whose people take no pride in their ancestry; they will produce no posterity worth while."

It is well to delve into the past; strive in the present, and to look forward into the future. This volume of Nemaha County History tells of the past, which covers a brief span of three score years since the all-conquering American pioneer came into the prairie wilderness to create a home; its pages likewise speak of the present—all of which is recorded for the benefit and inspiration of posterity.

While Nemaha county is but a small plat of earth, it is very dear to all of us, and is an Empire builded by the hands of brave and hardy men and women, whose composite achievement is one of the wonders of the age. Created and grown beyond the wildest dreams of its creators from an unpeopled wilderness into a populous, wealthy, and thriving community during the memory of living men, Nemaha county occupies a proud and enviable place among her sister counties in Kansas.

The story of Nemaha county's settlement and growth is faithfully and entertainingly told in the succeeding pages. The facts herein set

## FOREWORD

forth are not the result of mere guesswork; they are taken from available records and transcribed as coming from the lips of old settlers who know whereof they speak. Many of these facts are necessarily "recollections of pioneers." All written history is founded on personal knowledge and observation. In my experience of twenty-eight years in the profession of writing for the public, I have found a wide variance in these "recollections." It is seldom that two persons "recollect" alike. This curious phase of "recollecting" is easily explained from a psychological standpoint, and is attributive to the fact that any incident or occurrence affects each of several persons witnessing it in a different manner. Each may tell a story differently—but that divergence does not alter the historical value of the narration. It will be found that the facts set forth in this volume are essentially correct, and it will be invaluable as a reference work.

This volume is issued not a day too soon. The men and women who made the history contained herein are rapidly passing away, and it is meet that their composite and individual records be recorded. The book really represents the work of eight years, for we (my wife and I) have had a history of the county in mind for that length of time, and have been gathering material with that end in view.

Were it not for the faithful and unremitting labors of Mrs. Tennial in making historical researches and transcriptions of our joint efforts during the many months which were required for the preparation of the text, I fear the task would not have been accomplished. Sincere and deep appreciation is acknowledged for assistance and contributions from Judge Rufus M. Emery, Ira K. Wells, Prof. W. R. Anthony, Roy Hessel-tine, Capt. Lewis Miller, Jacob Mohler, Dr. S. Murdock, Mrs. V. A. Bird, Mrs. Alice Gray Williams, Rev. P. Joseph Sittenauer and an endless number of kindly folk, including the newspaper men of the county, who contributed their assistance and support freely, to the end that the people of Nemaha might have a history.

RALPH TENNAL.

July 30, 1916.



# ILLUSTRATIONS

A		Engelken, John .....	548
Allen, L. D. ....	352	Engelken, Mrs. John .....	548
Anderson, Thomas S. and Family....	424	F	
Anthony, Will R. ....	428	First House Built in Seneca, Kansas	80
Armstrong, Simon .....	708	First National Bank Building, Seneca, Kans. ....	228
Armstrong, Mrs. Emma .....	708	Fleisch, Jacob .....	512
Ashley, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar.....	380	Fleisch, Mrs. Jacob .....	512
Austin, Albert L. ....	660	Ford, Benjamin F. ....	612
Austin, Mrs. A. L. ....	660	Ford, Mrs. Benjamin F. ....	612
B		Ford Residence, Benjamin F. ....	614
Ballard, Mrs. ....	272	Ford, John M. and Wife.....	192
Bell, Charles H. ....	524	Four Generations of Kansans.....	380
Bell, Mrs. Charles H. ....	524	Fuller, John .....	340
Beyreis, Charley .....	566	Fuller, Mrs. ....	272
Bird, Virgil A. ....	740	Funk, Mr. and Mrs. John N. ....	440
Bird, Mrs. Virgil A. ....	740	Funk, David and Wife, and the Funk Farm Home .....	580
Bouse, Dr. W. G. ....	644	G	
Bronough, Thomas and Wife.....	272	Gage, Orange M. ....	192
Bronough, Robert M. and Family....	480	Gillaspie, J. W. ....	566
Broxtermann, Mr. and Mrs. William	272	Gillaspie, Mrs. J. W. ....	566
Buening, John T. and Family.....	392	Graney, Mr. and Mrs. James.....	272
Burger, Marsh .....	272	Gregg, James .....	272
Burger, Hiram and Wife .....	192	H	
Business Section, Sabetha, Kansas	99	Hamilton, Peter .....	192
Business Section, Centralia, Kansas	128	Hanks, E. N. and Wife.....	192
C		Hawley, Mrs. Margaret .....	192
Calhoun, George .....	504	Hecht, Louis and Family.....	508
Caspy, Ed .....	272	Hidden, Dr. J. S. and Wife.....	192
Community Tabernacle, Seneca, Kansas .....	89	High School Building, Centralia, Kansas .....	257
Cone, J. P. and Wife.....	272	High School Building, Sabetha, Kansas .....	243
Connet, Melville R. ....	388	High School Building, Seneca, Kansas .....	241
Court House, Seneca, Kansas.....	217	Huls, Henry and Family .....	596
Cross Country Travel in Old Days....	60	Humphrey, Scott B. ....	192
D		J	
Dennis, Mr. and Mrs. John.....	192	Jackson, Lyman R. ....	432
Dennis, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph.....	567	Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Richard.....	192
Dennis, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph W. ....	192	Johnstone, William .....	756
Dennis, William .....	372	Johnstone Family, Four Generations of .....	756
E		Johnstone, James .....	756
Early Day Transportation on the Plains .....	72		
Emery, Judge Rufus M. ....	336		
Emery, E. J. and Wife.....	272		

# ILLUSTRATIONS

Johnstone, Mrs. James, Daughter and Granddaughter .....	756
Johnstone, James, Sons and Daugh- ters .....	758

## K

Karns, George .....	400
Karns, Caroline .....	400
Kassens, Rev. Fr. Edwin .....	456
Kelley, Mrs. ....	272
Kinyon, Iris J. ....	566
Krogmann, Charles .....	724
Krogmann, Mrs. Charles .....	724

## L

Lappin, Samuel .....	192
Law, John W. ....	540
Law, Mrs. John W. ....	540
Lehmann, John U. and Wife .....	444
Lockard, Isaac C. ....	676

## Mc

McGehee, Jacob .....	272
McKay, Dr. D. B. and Wife .....	272
McManis, John .....	584
McNergney, Mr. and Mrs. Frank and Son, Quentin .....	280
McQuaid, Peter and Wife .....	272

## M

Main Street, Wetmore, Kansas .....	122
Main Street, Corning, Kansas .....	113
Main Street and Business Section, Seneca, Kansas .....	81
Maxson, Dr. J. C. and Family .....	448
Merrick, George .....	192
Miller, Jacob J. ....	628
Miller, Mrs. Mary M. ....	628
Mitchell, Joshua .....	360
Myers, Sol R. and Family .....	344

## N

Nemaha County Old Settlers I. ....	192
Nemaha County Old Settlers II. ....	272
Neville, Mr. and Mrs. James .....	192
Newton, Mrs. James L. ....	192
Nichols, Henry B. ....	484
Nichols, Mrs. Henry B. ....	484
Niel, Daniel .....	192
Nolte, Alois and Family .....	532

## P

Peckham, J. H. and Wife .....	272
Pelton, E. R. ....	192
Pioneer Home, A. ....	46
Price, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel N. ....	464

Public and Church Buildings, On- eida, Kansas .....	140
Public School Building, Goff, Kan- sas .....	246
Public School Building, Wetmore, Kansas .....	252

## R

Reed, Peter H. ....	496
Reed, Mrs. Sarah E. ....	496
Rethmann, Clements S. ....	516
Rethmann, Mrs. Agnes .....	516
Ridgway, Charles W. ....	472
Ridgway, Mrs. Charles W. ....	472
River Scene .....	35
Robertson, Mrs. Inez .....	788
Rottinghaus, Bernard H. and Fam- ily .....	488

## S

Sabetha Hospital, Sabetha, Kansas	237
Sams, Joshua .....	272
Schneider, Mr. and Mrs. Mat. ....	356
Schneider, Mat. and Family .....	356
Scott, Mrs. Catharine and Family .....	692
Severin, Joseph F., Farm Residence of .....	772
Sharp, George .....	192
Shaul, George A. ....	348
Sheppard, Mr. ....	192
Sly, Mr. and Mrs. John .....	272
Smith, John J. ....	492
Smith, Mrs. John J. ....	492
Starns, Francis M. ....	644
Stirk, P. H. ....	272
Swartz, Albert .....	500
Swartz, Mrs. Albert .....	500
Swartz, Henry .....	500
Swartz, Mrs. Henry .....	500
St. Mary's Parochial School, St. Benedict, Kansas .....	264
Sts. Peter and Paul's Church, Sen- eca, Kansas .....	304
St. Mary's Church, St. Benedict, Kansas .....	300
St. Bede's Church, Kelly, Kansas	307

## T

Taylor, J. E. and Wife .....	272
Taylor, J. P. ....	272
Tennal, Ralph .....	Frontispiece
Thompson, Howard .....	788
Thompson, Mrs. Lydia M. ....	788
Thompson, Richard S. ....	788

# ILLUSTRATIONS

Thompson Farm Residence.....	788	Wells, William R. ....	192
Trees, Mattie .....	262	Wells, Abijah .....	323
Trees Family, Four Generations.....	380	Wells, Ira K. ....	360
Trees, Andrew Jackson and Wife....	286	Wheat Harvest Scene in Nemaha	
Turner Hall, Bern, Kansas.....	117	County .....	176
U		Williams, Capt. A. W. ....	192
Ukele, Fred and Grandson, Fred.....	408	Williams, George W. ....	416
W		Williams, Mrs. Alice (Gray).....	416
Weart, Samuel .....	408	Williams, Laurin L. ....	416





# CONTENTS

---

## CHAPTER I.

### GEOLOGY AND THE PREHISTORIC PERIOD.

Scientific Terms—"Pliocene"—Evidence of Coal and Oil—Brick Clay—Cretaceous Niobrara Formation—Fossils—Loess Soil—Elements of Soil—Plant and Animal Life—Evolution—Carboniferous Age—Rock Formations—Upheavals—Glacial Theory . . . . .	Pages 33-37
--	-------------

## CHAPTER II.

### EARLY TIMES.

Significance of Name—Nemaha County Visited by Coronado in 1541—Coronado's Report—Fremont's Expedition in 1841—Mormons—"Forty-Niners"—Freighters—H. H. Lynn—Joseph Griffin—Edward Avery—Travelers' Graves—Majors and Russell—Old Trails—Stage Lines—Overland Traffic—Early Day Prices—Fares—Route from Atchison. . . .	Pages 38-44
---	-------------

## CHAPTER III.

### FIRST SETTLEMENTS.

At Baker's Ford—Early Settlers—Settlers Hold Meeting—First Bridge—Other Families Come—Election Held—Boundaries Defined—First Townships Settled—Samuel Magill—David Locknane—First Negro Settler—Settlement in Rock Creek—Other Townships Formed—Neuchatel—Home Township—Seneca, the County Seat—Ferry—Election District—First White Child Born in Seneca—Early Day Postmasters. . .	Pages 45-50
---	-------------

## CONTENTS

### CHAPTER IV.

#### FOUNDING OF TOWNS.

Original Townships—Present Townships—Original Towns—Free State Towns—Present Towns and Villages—Central City, the First Town—First Mill—First School—Richmond Incorporated—Temporary County Seat—Ash Point—Urbana—Pacific City—Granada—A. B. Ellit—Capioma—County Seat Election—Seneca Won—Court House Burned.....	Pages 51-55
--	-------------

### CHAPTER V.

#### FIRST EVENTS AND INSTITUTIONS.

First White Child—First Marriage—First Bridge—First Teacher—First Piano—Indians Perplexed—The Whittenhall Family—First County Commissioners—First Census—Dr. Stringfellow and Jim Lane—Judicial District—Judge Horton, First Judge—Election—Political Meeting—An Emigrant Band—Mormons—First Store at Fidelity—The Wempe Family....	Pages 56-62
---	-------------

### CHAPTER VI.

#### INDIAN HISTORY.

Traditions of Great Dakotahs—Treaty of 1806—Believed in a "Great Spirit"—Treaty With the Government—Ceded Lands—Pottawatomies—Aunt Lizza Roubidoux Barrada—Pawnee Burial Ground—Characteristics—Vanished Race—Treasure Relic—An Indian Tragedy—No Resident Indians—a Modern Incident—An Indian Burial—Modern Conditions—Reservations—Soldiers Pensioned .....	Pages 63-69
---	-------------

### CHAPTER VII.

#### TRANSPORTATION.

Early Day Methods—The Ox Team—Early Trails—Advancement Slow—Railroad "Talk"—Bonds Voted—St. Joseph and Denver—St. Joseph and Grand Island—Rock Island—Missouri Pacific Branches—How the Railroads Affected Towns—"Railroads on Paper"—Automobiles—St. Joseph and Grand Island the Pioneer Railroad—A Trading Post—Freighting—Ferry on the Big Blue—Government Lays Out a Military Road—California Emigration—Stage Lines—Marysville, Palmetto and Roseport Railroad—Other Railroad Companies...	Pages 70-78
---	-------------

## CONTENTS

### CHAPTER VIII.

#### SENECA, THE COUNTY SEAT.

Selected for County Seat—Town Founded—First House and Store—Second Structure—A Literary Blacksmith—Hotel and Mill—Other Buildings and Early Day Enterprises—Business Booms—Growth of Town—Advantages of Seneca—Progress—Business Enterprises and Professions—Guilford Hotel—A Colony Comes from England—Their Early Struggles—Interesting Citizens—Jake Cohen—Civic Improvement—Community Church—Tabernacle—High School Building—Municipal Light and Waterworks—City Hall..... Pages 79-91

### CHAPTER IX.

#### SENECA SHALE BRICK INDUSTRY.

An Agricultural Community—The One Exception—Important Invention—The "Klose Continuous Tunnel Kiln"—A Visit to the Seneca Shale Brick Company's Plant—Interview With Mr. Klose—Organization of Company—Beginning of Industry—Period of Uncertainty—Present Capacity—Capitalization ..... Pages 92-97

### CHAPTER X.

#### SABETHA.

Unlike Other Towns—Name—Sabetha Excels—A Healthful Climate—Model Town—Prosperous Citizens—Farm Products Shipped—Prominent Men—An Incident of Honor—Sabetha People Everywhere—How Named—Town Located—Town Company Organized—Organization—The Library—A Rare Host—Industries and Business Houses—Albany, the Mother of Sabetha—Reminiscences of the Late J. T. Brady.. Pages 98-111

### CHAPTER XI.

#### CORNING.

Its Peculiarities—A Solid Town—Founded By a Colony from Galesburg, Ill.—Dr. McKay—Named in Honor of Erasmus Corning—Postoffice Established in 1867—First Store—Location of Town Changed When Railroad Was Built—First Hotel—Jacob Jacobia—First School—Present School—Dr. Magill—Modern Corning—Highest Point in County—Nathan Ford and the Drouth of 1860—Population and Business Houses ..... Pages 112-115

## CONTENTS

### CHAPTER XII.

#### BERN.

Town Founded in 1886—Controversy Over Name—Altitude— Natural Advantages—Statistics—Churches—Societies and Lodges—Business Enterprises—Mineral Springs—As a Trading Point—Above the Average—Business Men....	Pages 116-120
--	---------------

### CHAPTER XIII.

#### WETMORE.

A Shipping Point—A Railroad Town—Named for W. T. Wet- more—Postoffice Established in 1867—Early Business En- terprises—First Events—A Hanging—Earliest Citizen— Pony Express and Overland Stage—Schools—A Jesse James Incident—Pioneers and Their Descendants—First Settler in Township—Prospecting for Coal—Bancroft— W. F. Turrentine—Cardinal Points of Compass Disregard- ed .....	Pages 121-126
---	---------------

### CHAPTER XIV.

#### CENTRALIA.

Third Town in County—Townsite Selected—Moved to the Rail- road—Located by a Maine Colony—A Would-Be Seminary —Progress—Incorporated—Library—Becomes City Proper in 1906—Dr. J. S. Hidden—Prominent Newspaper Men— Schools—Vital Statistics—Home Association—Early Set- tlers .....	Pages 127-133
---	---------------

### CHAPTER XV.

#### OTHER TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

Goff—A Railroad Center—Named in Honor of Edward H. Goff—Location—Judge Donaldson—Mr. Abbott, First Merchant—Kelly—A Shipping Point—"The Kelly Boos- ter"—A Beautiful Church—The Kelly Bank—School— Business Enterprises—Pioneer Families—The Villages of Dorcas, Clear Creek, Sother, Price, Etc.—The Town of Baileyville .....	Pages 134-138
---	---------------

## CONTENTS

### CHAPTER XVI.

#### ONEIDA.

Founded by Col. Cyrus Shinn—Election of Name—Liquor Restriction—Supported Governor St. John—Postoffice—Early Enterprises—Churches—Substantially Built—School—"Real Estate Journal"—New York "Tribune" Reports of "Bleeding Kansas"—First Religious Service—Lodges and Woman's Clubs ..... Pages 139-143

### CHAPTER XVII.

#### NEMAHA IN THE BORDER WAR.

Anti Slavery Sentiment—Underground Railroad—John Brown Here—Rev. Curtis Graham—Recollections of William Graham—Nemaha Not Seriously Affected—Quantrill—Slaves Here—Jim Lane Here—Mexican War Veterans... Pages 144-148

### CHAPTER XVIII.

#### NEMAHA IN THE CIVIL WAR.

Nemaha Responded Promptly—A Company Organized Here—George Graham Organized a Company—"John Brown's Body"—Belonged to the Seventh and Eighth Regiments—Real Warfare—Troops Return on a Furlough—Nemaha Soldiers in Important Engagements—Nemaha Boys in the Ninth Cavalry—Eleventh Regiment in Campaign Against Indians—Nemaha Soldiers Saw Much Service—Prominent Nemaha County Men in the Civil War—Grape Shot Found Here—War Relics ..... Pages 149-161

### CHAPTER XIX.

#### THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

Nemaha Responds Promptly—Company K, Twenty-second Regiment—Equipment of Company—To Camp Alger, Va.—Drilling—Efficiency—Foraging—Camp Mead, Pa.—Mustered Out at Ft. Leavenworth—Captain Miller—Nemaha Always to the Front—A Sham Battle..... Pages 162-165

## CONTENTS

### CHAPTER XX.

#### AGRICULTURE.

Marvelous Resources—Improved Methods—Evolution in Crop Raising—Live Stock—Comparative Statistics, 1875 to 1915—Increase of Land Values—Scientific Farming—Improved Stock—Prominent Breeders—Beef Cattle—Model Farms—Irrigation—States and Countries Represented—Survey of County—Cheese and Butter—Other Statistics—The Tractor as a Labor Saver—A Big Grain Business....

Pages 166-179

### CHAPTER XXI.

#### AGRICULTURE, CONTINUED.

Apple Orchards—Honey—Cattle Shipments—Prize Crops—Agricultural and Horticultural Society—First Annual Fair—Board of Trade—Repaying New York—A Freak Peach Tree—Prize Winners—Pure-Bred and "Scrub Corn"—Fletcher and Wright's \$67,000 Grain Crop—Harvesting the Crop—As a Health Resort—Age of Nemaha—Jacob Fleisch's Quarter Section Tree Farm.....Pages 180-187

### CHAPTER XXII.

#### NEWSPAPERS.

The First Newspaper—The Nemaha "Courier"—Its Policy—John P. Cone, Editor—The "Courier-Democrat"—"Mercury"—The Seneca "Tribune"—Other Newspapers—Sabetha Newspapers—Centralia, Corning and Goff Newspapers—The Bern "Gazette"—The Wetmore "Spectator"—A Rare Newspaper Collection.....Pages 188-196

### CHAPTER XXIII.

#### BENCH AND BAR.

A Lawyer and Judge—The Lawyer and Necessity of Law—Its Application—The Bench—Judicial Power Vested—Albert L. Lee—Albert H. Horton—Robert St. Clair Graham—Nathan Price—Perry L. Hubbard—Alfred G. Otis—David Martin—Reuben C. Bassett—John F. Thompson—Rufus M. Emery—William I. Stuart—District Clerks—Sheriffs—County Attorneys—Probate Judges .....Pages 197-204

## CONTENTS

### CHAPTER XXIV.

#### THE BENCH AND BAR, CONTINUED.

The Bar—A Lawyer's Duty—His Work—Resident Lawyers— Nemaha Attorneys Who Have Attained Distinction—Expe- riences of Lawyers—Senator Ingalls—Cases—Early Juries —Important Cases—Louis Lorimer and Regis Loisel Titles —Railroad Bond Case—Noted Criminal Cases—State vs. Carter and Winters—State vs. Wilton Baughn—State vs. Blancett—State vs. John Craig—State vs. Mrs. Frank Mc- Dowell—State vs. Thomas Ramsey—State vs. Fred Kuhn	Pages 205-215
---	---------------

### CHAPTER XXV.

#### COUNTY ORGANIZATION AND OFFICIAL ROSTER.

First Election—Bogus Legislature—County Created—First Of- ficers—Members Elected to Second and Third Territorial Legislature—County Officers Elected in 1859—First Court House—First Term of Court—District Judge—Grand Jury —An Important Case—Townships—Council—State Sena- tors—Territorial Representatives—State Representatives— Sheriffs—County Clerks—Registrars of Deeds—County Treasurers—Probate Judges—Superintendents of Public Instruction—Clerks of District Court—County Commis- sioners—County Surveyors—Coroners—County Attorneys —County Assessors	Pages 216-222
--	---------------

### CHAPTER XXVI.

#### BANKS AND BANKING.

First Bank in the County—The Sabetha State Bank—Wetmore State Bank—First National Bank in the County—Bank- ing Interests Develop—Banks Organized—Changes and Consolidations—Farmers Bank of Morrill Organized— Present Banks—The National Bank of Seneca—First Na- tional Bank of Seneca—Citizens Bank of Seneca—The Na- tional Bank of Sabetha—The Citizens State Bank, Sabetha —Other Nemaha Banks	Pages 223-234
---	---------------

## CONTENTS

### CHAPTER XXVII.

#### THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

Prior to 1860—Early Day Doctors—Dr. Anderson, Dr. Hidden—Well Known Physicians—First Medical Society Organized—Now a Part of the American Medical Association—Present Organization—Requirements to Practice—Hospital—Prominent Physicians and Surgeons . . . . Pages 235-238

### CHAPTER XXVIII.

#### SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION.

The Pioneers' Interest in Schools—First County Superintendent—Other Superintendents—Establishing Districts—Records Destroyed by Fire—The District School—Number of Districts—Candidates for Certificates in 1877, 1885, 1900 and 1915—Officers and Teachers in 1886—School Officers, 1915-1918—Joint Districts—County High School Plan Rejected—Consolidation—School Centralization—Notable Teachers—The Albany School—A Beloved Teacher . . . . . Pages 239-266

### CHAPTER XXIX.

#### LODGES AND SOCIETIES.

Masonic, the First to Organize—Royal Arch Masons in 1877—Grand Army of the Republic—Women's Relief Corps—Masonic—Odd Fellows—Knights of Pythias—Knights and Ladies of Security—Modern Woodmen—Royal Neighbors—Ancient Order of United Workmen—Degree of Honor—Fire Department—C. M. B. A.—Organizations and Officers—Clubs and Social Gatherings . . . . . Pages 267-275

### CHAPTER XXX.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

Calamities—Great Drouth of 1860—Grasshopper Visitation—The Cyclone of 1896—John P. Cone's Experience—Indian Massacre of Argonauts—An Exciting Buffalo Hunt—Reminiscences of Alfred Stokes—The Orphan Population—The County Hospital . . . . . Pages 276-287



## CONTENTS

### CHAPTER XXXI.

#### NEMAHA'S SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF RENOWN.

Dr. Benjamin L. Miller—Mrs. Ethel Hussey—Ex-Gov. W. J. Bailey—E. G. Stitt—Mrs. Nannie Kuhlman—Senator W. H. Thompson—Mrs. Virginia Greever—Walt Mason—Frederick Gates—Rev. A. G. Lohman—Col. H. Baker—And Others .....	Pages 288-296
--	---------------

### CHAPTER XXXII.

#### THE CHURCH IN NEMAHA COUNTY.

First Sermon—Seneca Baptist Church Organized Here—Methodists in 1857—Presbyterian Church in 1863—Congregationalists—Universalists—Roman Catholic—St. Mary's Church of St. Benedict—Sts. Peter and Paul's, Seneca—St. Bede's Catholic Church—Seneca Church Meetings—Sabbetha Churches—Centralia Churches—Wetmore Churches—Oneida Churches—Corning Churches—Churches of Other Towns .....	Pages 297-321
---	---------------

### CHAPTER XXXIII.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.



# INDEX

A		Brown, Francis Walter	455
Abbott, Chauncey M.	689	Brownlee, Jefferson	636
Abbott, Edmund B.	691	Buehler, Edwin	405
Adriance, Dora	810	Buening, John Theo.	392
Adriance, George C.	810	Bumphrey, William	654
Allen, L. D.	352	Burky, Emil R.	641
Allison, Moses Henton	523	Buser, Joseph J.	381
Althouse, Elmer E.	454	Butler, John	77
Althouse, Frank M.	465	Butts, John S.	802
Anderson, Thomas S.	424	Butz, Ai M.	666
Andrews, Frank	614	Calder, William D.	773
Andrews, John W.	577	Calhoun, George	504
Anthony, Will R.	428	Campbell, David	572
Armstrong, Simon	708	Carlyle, William Logan	421
Ashley, Oscar S.	642	Carroll, Joseph P.	513
Austin, Albert L.	660	Casey, Peter T.	581
Ayers, Smith W.	627	Chadwick, Samuel A.	730
B		Clark, Frecey A.	587
Bailey, Ernest N.	812	Clark, John L.	393
Bailey, Ira	727	Clemens, Hubert	662
Ball, William J.	673	Cole, Bert G.	477
Baldwin, Horace M.	386	Collins, Arthur J.	411
Baker, John T.	527	Connet, Melville R.	388
Baker, John W.	725	Conrad, Dr. Burton	796
Barnes, James L.	797	Conrad, Dr. George R.	450
Barnes, John H.	717	Conwell, Emery	511
Barrett, James Franklin	557	C	
Bell, Charles H.	524	Cooley, Charles E.	747
Bergmann, Bernard	487	Cox, Posey W.	794
Beyreis, Charley	565	Crawford, Lawrence M.	460
Bieri, Frederick N.	618	Crowley, John W.	767
Biles, Jesse K.	814	Cummings, John P.	433
Bird, Virgil A.	740	D	
Bonjour, J. A.	807	Dam, John P.	652
Bonjour, Roland A.	782	Davis, Quinter	462
Bostwick, Willard M.	811	Davis, William I.	556
Bottiger, Richard	423	Dennis, William	372
Bouse, Dr. William G.	645	Dignan, Patrick	562
Briggs, William H.	665	Donahue, Thomas	762
Broadbent, Edwin	659	Donald, William H.	656
Broadbent, William	777	Draney, John	357
Brock, Martin T.	749	Driggs, William W.	601
Brokaw, John P.	670	Droge, Conrad	522
Bronough, Robert M.	480		

# INDEX

E		H	
Ehrsam, John .....	609	Hamm, M. Grant .....	402
Eichenlaub, Henry .....	395	Hanni, Rudolph J. ....	774
Eichenmann, Albert C. ....	520	Harpenau, Henry .....	495
Emery, Hon. Rufus M. ....	336	Hart, Benjamin F. ....	374
Engelken, Henry .....	549	Hazell, Henson J. ....	447
Engelken, John .....	548	Hecht, Emil .....	530
Eisenbarth, John M. ....	729	Hecht, Louis .....	508
Eisenbarth, Michael .....	680	Heinen, John A. ....	705
F		Heiniger, Frederick .....	625
Feldman, Henry .....	451	Heiniger, Gottfred .....	506
Firstenberger, Burnett G. ....	385	Hennigh, David .....	434
Firstenberger, Daniel J. ....	786	Henry, Harry .....	755
Fisher, Van Buren .....	397	Henry, Nick .....	721
Fitzgerald, David H. ....	677	Henry, Thomas .....	700
Fleisch, Jacob .....	512	Hesseltine, Bert .....	597
Ford, Benjamin F. ....	612	Heuschele, Dr. William .....	576
Ford, William C. ....	537	Hibbard, Dr. Samuel M. ....	431
Foster, Albert .....	804	Hilbert, Clarkson A. ....	583
Foster, Harry W. ....	632	Hitchner, Daniel .....	805
Foster, James Wallace .....	631	Hitchner, Fidell G. ....	806
Fuller, John .....	340	Hittle, Harvey .....	770
Funk, Abram .....	478	Hoffman, Jacob H. ....	611
Funk, Chester A. ....	671	Hollister, George E. ....	606
Funk, David .....	580	Holsapple, Ira .....	792
Funk, Frederick W. ....	707	Holston, Edgar E. ....	563
Funk, James E. ....	668	Holthaus, F. J. ....	339
Funk, John N. ....	440	Holthaus, Frank H. ....	533
G		Horth, Edwin L. ....	551
Gabbert, Adolph J. ....	776	Huber, George W. ....	553
Gabbert, Adolph, Jr. ....	777	Huls, Bernard .....	596
Gabbert, Augustus F. ....	798	Hulsing, John G. ....	489
Gallentine, Henry .....	751	Humphrey Brothers .....	630
Gaston, Lawrence Howard .....	546	Hybskmann, John William .....	575
Geary, Frank L. ....	332	Hybskmann, Ralph A. ....	783
Geren, John William .....	765	I	
Gerkens, William .....	483	Ingalls, Ray T. ....	568
Geyer, Jacob .....	733	J	
Gillaspie, John W. ....	566	Jackson, Lyman Robie .....	432
Goodrich, Charles S. ....	687	Jonach, Emil J. ....	486
Gilmore, Roy Roscoe .....	693	Jonach, Charles H. ....	634
Gilmore, Timothy .....	693	Jonach Brothers .....	634
Gilmore, William Curtis .....	709	Jonach, Emil, Sr. ....	634
Gladfelter, John P. ....	457	Jones, Jesse .....	778
Graham, Benjamin D. ....	787	Johnson, Irvin .....	366
Gress, John .....	499	Johnson, Samuel F. ....	669
Grigsby, Claude .....	780	Johnson, William E. ....	463
Guild, Harry L. ....	599	Johnstone, James .....	758
Guisse, Charles .....	543	Johnstone, Otho L. ....	729
Gurtler, John .....	808	Johnstone, Thomas P. ....	712

# INDEX

Johnstone, William .....	756	McNeill, William S. ....	799
Jorden, Charles .....	731	McQuaid, Jerome .....	491
K		M	
Karns, George .....	400	Magill, George A. ....	476
Karns, William E. ....	769	Malone, Michael .....	771
Kassens, Father Edwin .....	456	Marshall, Elliot H. ....	449
Katz, Henry F. ....	521	Martin, James E. ....	732
Keck, George E. ....	597	Mather, Reuben Elbert .....	663
Kelm, Otto A. ....	371	Mathews, Charles E. ....	359
Kemper, Albert George .....	443	Mathews, Elmar Roy .....	367
Kennard, Abbie W. ....	370	Maxson, John C. ....	448
Kerl, John F. ....	528	Meisner, George W. ....	617
Kerr, George .....	406	Meisner, Herman .....	459
Ketter, John A. ....	723	Meisner, Jacob .....	621
Ketter, Joseph B. ....	675	Meisner, John .....	458
Kimmel, Jacob O. ....	592	Meisner, Thomas J. ....	624
King, William M. ....	640	Melcher, Frank .....	785
Kinyon, Iris J. ....	564	Miller, Benjamin Leroy .....	629
Kirk, James E. ....	538	Miller, Elmer A. ....	578
Kirk, Lewis L. ....	539	Miller, Jacob J. ....	628
Klose, Karl W. ....	399	Millick, Frank G. ....	760
Koelzer, Joseph P. ....	334	Mills, Ephraim G. ....	594
Kohler, George E. ....	474	Minger, Samuel .....	623
Kongs, William M. ....	686	Mitchell, Daniel E. ....	519
Korber, August .....	529	Mitchell, Joshua .....	360
Krapp, Frank F. ....	502	Montgomery, George W. ....	468
Krogmann, Charles .....	724	Mooney, James P. ....	784
L		Moore, C. C. ....	752
Law, John W. ....	540	Morrell, Willis .....	688
League, Daniel A. ....	753	Mueller, Robert G. ....	343
Lehmann, John U. ....	444	Munsell, Rev. Samuel .....	737
Livingood, Israel .....	723	Murdock, Samuel, Sr. ....	426
Lockard, Isaac C. ....	676	Murdock, S., Jr. ....	430
Long, John A. ....	658	Murphy, Edward R. ....	350
Long, William T. ....	658	Murphy, William Burt .....	378
Lortscher, Christ .....	619	Myers, George W. ....	453
Lukert, John F. ....	436	Myers, Solomon R. ....	344
Lukert, William .....	470	N	
Lynn, Clinton A. ....	591	Neff, Samuel C. ....	620
Lynn, Harvey H. ....	744	Neumayr, Rev. Fr. Gregory .....	486
Mc		Newland, Lemuel L. ....	761
McCaffrey, Richard D. ....	517	Newman, Edgar M. ....	422
McCliman, Richard D. ....	387	Nichols, Henry B. ....	484
McClain, Samuel W. ....	648	Noble, Alexander .....	561
McCoy, John .....	437	Nolte, Anton .....	532
McCoy, John .....	633	Nusbaum, Andrew H. ....	603
McFall, Dennis .....	633	O	
McManis, John .....	384	Olberding, Frank A. ....	490
McNeil, Charles Sumner .....	552	Olberding, Joseph .....	534
McNeill, John .....	800		

# INDEX

<b>P</b>		Sherrard, William H. ....	704
Parker, Courtland L. ....	410	Shumaker, Frederick ....	754
Partridge, Charles ....	637	Shumaker, Roy ....	754
Partridge, James ....	637	Simon, Adam ....	377
Pendergrass, Edward ....	467	Simon, Clayton K. ....	573
Peret, Victor N. ....	363	Simon, Lorrain N. ....	375
Pfrang, Fred ....	809	Skoch, John J. ....	526
Phillips, George W. ....	638	Slocum, Louis S. ....	573
Plattner, John ....	413	Smith, Alfred A. ....	518
Polson, Nels ....	569	Smith, John J. ....	492
Price, Daniel N. ....	464	Smith, William ....	646
Pugh, John T. ....	485	Smith, William H. ....	802
<b>R</b>		Smothers, John Leroy ....	544
Ralston, George M. ....	593	Snyder, Henry Galen ....	390
Reed, Peter H. ....	496	Sourk, Chester G. ....	718
Reinhart, Jacob A. ....	406	Sourk, George W. ....	683
Reinhart, Jonathan ....	611	Sourk, John Sherman ....	716
Rethmann, Benjamin C. ....	542	Sourk, William M. ....	714
Rethmann, Charles ....	516	Spiker, Howard ....	738
Rettele, Joseph ....	498	Spiker, Melvin H. ....	742
Reynolds, Willie C. ....	672	Spring, Earl C. ....	616
Ridgway, Charles W. ....	472	Stallbaumer, George ....	494
Rilinger, John A. ....	514	Starns, Francis Marion, Sr. ....	644
Roberts, Dr. James B. ....	695	Starns, James F. ....	470
Ronnebaum, George ....	657	Steele, Frank D. ....	570
Rooney, Thomas E. ....	347	Stein, Peter P. ....	379
Root, William H. ....	452	Steinmeir, Christian H. ....	790
Rosengarten, Theodore ....	482	Stevens, Levi S. ....	427
Roth, John ....	604	Stoldt, John ....	779
Rottinghaus, Bernard ....	531	Strathmann, F. J. ....	811
Rottinghaus, Bernard Henry ....	488	Stuke, Henry ....	547
Rottinghaus, Henry ....	505	Swart, John M. ....	681
<b>S</b>		Swartz, Albert ....	500
Sanford, Lawrence V. ....	466	Swartz, Henry ....	500
Scanlan, Benjamin F. ....	535	<b>T</b>	
Scheier, Leo J. ....	355	Talkington, James M. ....	558
Schlaegel, William W. ....	559	Taylor, Bayard ....	719
Schmidt, John M. ....	515	Tennal, Ralph ....	813
Schneider, Gottlieb ....	698	Thiem, August ....	699
Schneider, Mathias ....	356	Thompson, Howard ....	788
Schoonover, Adolphus A. ....	653	Thompson, William ....	446
Scott, Philip J. ....	692	Thompson, William E. ....	640
Scoville, Courtney C. K. ....	329	Thornburrow, Edward W. ....	744
Schrempf, Charles F. ....	333	Thornburrow, Samuel ....	742
Schumacher, Joseph ....	481	Tolliver, Charles R. ....	684
Schuneman, Louis ....	713	Tomlinson, James ....	650
Severin, Frederick W. ....	536	Townsend, Charles C. ....	579
Severin, Joseph F. ....	772	Trees, Andrew Jackson ....	380
Shaefer, John M. ....	475	Tryon, John F. ....	510
Shaefer, Leonard M. ....	587	Trask, Albert F. ....	649
Shaul, George A. ....	348	Turrentine, William F. ....	746

# INDEX

U			
Ukele, Fred .....	408	Wickins, David Durham.....	414
V		Wikoff, Henry L. ....	506
VanVerth, William H. ....	541	Wilcox, James E. ....	764
Vernon, Edward S. ....	585	Williams, Edmond E. ....	589
W		Williams, George W. (Seneca).....	328
Wadleigh, Clarence Curtis .....	550	Williams, George W. (Oneida).....	416
Wait, Herbert L. ....	545	Williamson, Andrew .....	439
Waller, Peter P. ....	702	Wilson, Robert E. ....	588
Watkins, Charles J. ....	661	Winkler, Barnard .....	365
Watkins, Frank J. ....	571	Winkler, William .....	554
Weart, Samuel .....	412	Wittmer, Jacob .....	622
Weiss, Adolph .....	605	Wittmer, William J. ....	624
Weiss, Jacob Frederick .....	602	Wittwer, Jacob S. ....	604
Wells, Hon. Abijah .....	323	Wolfley, Jacob .....	735
Wells, Ira K. ....	368	Woodbury, Fred Colfax .....	419
Wempe, Anton .....	345	Woodworth, James E. ....	574
Wempe, John .....	503	Wurzbacher, William H. ....	461
Wessel, Frank F. ....	655	Y	
Westover, Ralph .....	710	Young, Mrs. Emma .....	394
White, Edward E. ....	595	Z	
Whittle, Harry G. ....	608	Zimmerman, John W. ....	460
Wichman, Barney .....	479	Zug, John .....	441





# History of Nemaha County.

## CHAPTER I.

### GEOLOGY AND THE PREHISTORIC PERIOD.

SCIENTIFIC TERMS—"PLIOCENE"—EVIDENCE OF COAL AND OIL—BRICK CLAY—CRETACEOUS NIOBRARA FORMATION—FOSSILS—LOESS SOIL—ELEMENTS OF SOIL—PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE—EVOLUTION—CARBONIFEROUS AGE—ROCK FORMATIONS—UPHEAVALS—GLACIAL-THEORY.

When one comes to write of the scientific part of ordinary affairs, he is apt to run against a stone wall in the matter of words the first thing. Such unknown quantities as "pliocene," and "alluvian," and similar terms are handled by the scientist with a familiarity that is appalling to the mere lay writer. Going against this geological department was a matter that was tackled with fear and trembling. Armed with dictionary and encyclopedia and a severe, learned frown, the historian sat down to the typewriter. Sure enough, the first word mentioned in the geological matter at hand was "pliocene." Once for all, the historian would put "pliocene" in its proper place and fear the unknown quantity no longer. But Mr. Webster, himself, did not have much opinion of that word, for in the abbreviated office dictionary of the sainted Noah is found no such word as pliocene. This is the dictionary recommended to newspaper men, preachers and pupils. "Pliocene's" stock went down 100 per cent. after several moments of faithful search.

But the Encyclopedia Britannica is more severe than Mr. Webster, and it says of the word "pliocene:" "The name given by Sir Charles Lyell to the section of the upper tertiaries, because the organic remains found in it contain between sixty and seventy per cent. of living species. A greater per cent. than is contained in the older miocene, but not so great as that found in the later Pleistocene." There you are. You no sooner find one word than a host of others are thrown at you. The first thing is "tertiaries." That has to be looked up, and then there are those other "—ocenes" to go after. And no one would read this chapter at all if they were dug out.

The Encyclopedia Britannica confines its examples to England naturally. London, it seems, has pliocene beds, but Kansas and Nemaha county have too, although the encyclopedia fails their mention.

Tertiaries is taken up by Mr. Webster who explains that it is "of the third order, rank, or formation." Pliocene therefore would be the second of the three geological formations or periods. The most important part of this word, "pliocene," to Nemaha county, Kansas, is that pliocene beds make excellent fertilizer.

Carboniferous and bituminous are words that have become as familiar as alfalfa and millet of late. The evidence of coal in Nemaha county has encouraged to leasing of lands for oil-boring purposes. For where coal exists there may be oil also. From the neighborhood of Sycamore Springs in the northeastern corner of the county down to Centralia in the southwestern section, the oil leasing has been extended during this spring of 1916. The veins in northeastern Kansas are thin, but as near Nemaha county as Leavenworth are coal mines that have been producing for years. Wetmore, in Nemaha county, has made repeated diggings for coal, and so sure were the early settlers of sufficient coal to pay for mining, that one of the streams of the county is called Coal creek, and fuel is found along its banks today.

The fire and brick clay in the region of Seneca is so excellent that a brick is made there, the superior of which has not been manufactured elsewhere, and the reputation of the kiln is international.

The cretaceous Niobrara formation causes one to make another delve into the hidden secrets of Webster and Britannica. "Cretaceous," says Mr. Webster, is chalky. But, horrors! there's something wrong here. Niobrara, says the Britannica, is that section of a diocese of the American Episcopal Protestant church, now called the State of South Dakota.

So we will pass to common every day language and really get somewhere. Now, of course, you know by the fossil shells you pick up, that water has covered this region in ages before man came upon it. Scientists tell us that this once was an inland sea. The Missouri river is what remains of it. Long, untold ages ago, this great inland body of water brought down silt, which we now call loess soil (pronounced "less.") This loess soil has been identified as far west as Washington county. It is more distinct along the Missouri river, being recognized by its reddish color.

It is the loess soil which makes the country about Doniphan county, Kansas, and Buchanan county, Missouri, (St. Joseph), supreme for fruit growing. There is no better soil in the world for such crops as ours than loess soil.

What soil changes the ages have brought since the deposit of loess soil in this region is mere conjecture, but we know we have loam of exceptional productiveness. This loess soil is composed of fine sand and lime with some clay, usually of a very uniform consistency and un-

mixed with coarse materials. A little iron in its composition gives it its reddish tint. More frequently it has a fair proportion, over ten per



THE STREAMS OF NEMAHA ARE BEAUTIFUL AND TEEM WITH FISH.

cent., of carbonate and phosphate of lime and some potash, so that it becomes a rich ingredient, when mixed with the surface loam.

To get Nemaha county's first citizens we must look in the solid rock, where lie buried the fossil remains of plants and animals. You may see them any day with a little search in a creek bed by picking up stones left there by freshets. This plant and animal life of the long ago now help us to promote our civilization today. Long before the human family saw the light of day, the seas swarmed with animal life, and the dry lands supported a fauna and flora of marvelous development and variety. All were strange and different from the plant and animal life, as we know it today. Nearly all of their kind became extinct with the changes of the earth's condition and the natural evolution of the species.

In the world today there are but few evolved representatives of this extinct life. The horse, centuries ago, an animal of immense size, through the passage of time and useless development, became a tiny animal. Today by careful breeding, training and domesticating, it has attained importance as the king of domestic animals. So it is with other animals in use on the farms of Nemaha county now. When Nemaha county, for instance, was rugged, wild and unpopulated by man, the horse had five toes. Gradually through lack of use, the toes disappeared until the hoof known on the animal today became the one best suited to its needs.

From the ages ante-dating written history, we have representatives in different oceans, such as the brachiopods and other shell fish; the crinoids or sea lilies and others of like character. Also, on the dry land, are found a few insects of the cockroach type and other creeping things which inhabit dark and damp places, animals of gloom on whose form the sunshine of day rarely falls.

Science tells us of gigantic vegetation, which, at one time, covered Nemaha county. The modern cat tails, gathered by our children for torches in October, are descendants of prehistoric giants of their kind, which grew twenty times the size of their modern representatives, and grew beside immense lakes with which the land was covered, instead of the marshy streams of today. The little creeping vines which are seen along the fringe of trees by the creek are lineal descendants of mighty trees of the forests, in the long ago, while materials were gathering for the rock masses constituting Nemaha county.

These rocks belong to the age known as Carboniferous. The earth, which is turned when we plow, is called the post tertiary of loose drift. The division below this is called Pliocene, or as told above, "the section of the upper tertiary which contains so great a per cent. of living species." Sandstone lies in this division.

Beneath the tertiary pliocene division lies the cretaceous, or formation, which includes the Niobrara, the Fort Benton and Dakota stratas. It develops that the Niobrara is the South Dakota title of this geological condition. The name is taken from the former name of the State of South Dakota, as the Mississippian sub-division of the Carboniferous age is taken from the Mississippi, and the Pennsylvanian is taken from Pennsylvania.

Sandstone, limestone and shale are found in the cretaceous deposit. Beneath the cretaceous division we have the rocks of the Carboniferous age. Limestone, shale and coal are the products of the Carboniferous age.

In the upheavals of nature there has been more or less change in these stratas. You do not find a uniform depth at which the product of each age is found. At one time, quite recently, say a few million or billion years ago, climatic conditions changed in Nemaha county so that the snow falling during winter was not melted through the summer. To the far north great quantities of snow and ice accumulated, and gradually spread over the surface of a large part of North America. Part of this ice mass moved slowly southward and covered all of Nemaha county. It brought with it vast quantities of soil, clay and gravel. The deposits of this glacial period are boulders of different kinds, separated by sands, gravels and clays, the last holding the remains of animals, erratic rocks, masses transported great distances and evincing, by their size, that only floating ice could have carried them; moraines, or the debris gathered in valleys by local glaciers. These evidences of the glacial covering are found everywhere in Nemaha county.

There is a possibility that somewhere within Nemaha county, oil and gas may be found, as there are outcroppings of coal from the carboniferous period.

## CHAPTER II.

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### EARLY TIMES.

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SIGNIFICANCE OF NAME—NEMAHA COUNTY VISITED BY CORONADO IN 1541—CORONADO'S REPORT—FREMONT'S EXPEDITION IN 1841—MORMONS—"FORTY-NINERS"—FREIGHTERS—H. H. LYNN—JOSEPH GRIFFIN—EDWARD AVERY—TRAVELERS' GRAVES—MAJORS AND RUSSELL—OLD TRAILS—STAGE LINES—OVERLAND TRAFFIC—EARLY DAY PRICES—FARES—ROUTE FROM ATCHISON.

Nemaha, "No Papoose," in its English significance, county, Kansas, bears the distinction of having been trod by the foot of white man long before the original thirteen colonies of the United States were touched by any but aborigines. Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, coming up from Mexico, marched through Kansas leaving what is now the northern boundary of that State, which then was but an untried wilderness, by the way of Nemaha county. This was in the month of August, 1541. The Smithsonian Institute contains records of this famous expedition. A Nemaha county man has written the story of this expedition into a book of charm and interest, and Nemaha county has passed into literature as well as ancient history. John C. Stowell tells the story of the expedition of Coronado. Nemaha county at that time, with all the country north of the Kaw river to the fortieth latitude, by which Nemaha county is bounded on the north, was called Quivera. It was then occupied by the Pottawatomie and Fox Indians. But today Nemaha county, bearing its Indian name, is the one county in the northeast corner of Kansas having no Indiana reservation, and no resident Indians.

Coronado said of Nemaha county: "The earth is the best for all kinds of productions of Spain; for while it is very strong and black it is very well watered by brooks and springs and rivers. I found prunes (wild plums) like those of Spain, some of which were black; also some excellent grapes and mulberries." Nemaha county with the rest of the land of the untried West, was then covered with buffalo. Of them Coronado says, "All that way the plains are as full of crooked-back oxen as the mountain, Serena, in Spain, is of sheep." Coronado, in search of the famed City of Gold, which folks since then have sought in the ancient treasures of the Incas, from whence he came, possibly, was accompanied by perhaps thirty-six men when he reached Nemaha county. Provisions

failing before they reached here by a couple of hundred miles or more, his main body of Spaniards and 800 Indians turned back, and the Indomitable Thirty-six with their Chief, undiscouraged and unafraid, came alone.

Exactly three hundred years later, the next known expedition of white men reached Nemaha county, which meantime had been left undisturbed to the Indian and the buffalo. In the year 1841 John Charles Fremont was sent by Senator U. S. Benton of Missouri to the West to ostensibly examine the region of the Des Moines river, but in reality to break off an engagement with the handsome young lieutenant and Jessie Benton, the fifteen-year-old daughter of Senator Benton. He completed the work with the rapidity and ardor of an anxious lover and hastened back within a year when he secretly married his youthful fiancée. Then followed the famous expedition of Fremont to do geographical work in all the territories. On this trip toward the Rocky Mountains Fremont crossed Nemaha county. He entered the county just south of Sabetha, crossed Baker's Ford and followed a circuitous route toward the present location of Seneca, the county seat. The inability to cross the many Nemaha streams caused the tortuous path of the Fremont party. The road he traversed, however, was the one followed by the Mormons in 1847, which was the third expedition of white men through the land of "No Papoose." It was the beginning of the Mormon exodus to Salt Lake. The California "fortyniners" followed this road in their dash for the fascinating gold fields of California. By this time people were beginning to stop in Kansas, to stake claims and to become residents. Many are the stories told today of the passing of the California gold seekers through Nemaha county in those days. The road became then the great military road along which passed many troops bound for the enticing far West. It passed the length of Nemaha county and is now the Rock Island highway destined to become one of the great cross country arteries for the modern motor travel of the day.

Many of the famous early day freighters across the plains from St. Joseph to Denver and California were Nemaha county men. The romantic figures of that day are now the settled, retired farmers or business men of today and their reminiscences are tales to delight the heart of the adventurous youth of today.

H. H. Lynn, or "Ham" Lynn, as he was called for the half century of his Nemaha county residence, was a freighter across the plains, making his first trip in 1857. He made more trips than any other Nemaha county freighter. Ham Lynn has lived in and near Wetmore in the southeastern corner of the county for sixty years and he still lives there. His first trip was as driver for Jim Crow and Henry Childs of Independence, Mo. They started from Leavenworth with provisions of all sorts for the Sioux Indians of Fort Laramie, Wyo., in the Wind River Mountains. Mr. Lynn in all his trips never saw an Indian on the warpath and is inclined to believe tradition has stretched the Indian stories consider-

ably. In 1858 Mr. Lynn made a trip to Utah, carrying government supplies to soldiers who were quelling a Mormon insurrection. His third trip was to Salt Lake City. He received \$25 a month and his board, which was composed chiefly of coffee, biscuits and beans. The trip required five months. "When I joined the army in 1861," says Mr. Lynn, "after the hardships and privations of freighting, war seemed like a vacation." After the war he again took up freighting but received \$100 a month. In 1866, when he was returning from a trip to the Black Hills he had his first railroad ride, from Junction City to the Missouri river.

A Nemaha county boy, Joseph Griffin, of Sabetha, is said to have been the youngest driver of a freighting team across the great plains and along the highway extending over the Nemaha county to the West. Mr. Griffin was only fourteen years of age at the time. An older brother was a driver of a team, and took the boy, Joseph, with him at one time. Another driver became ill and Joseph was pressed into service. After that he was given one of the teams to drive.

Edwin Avery, one of the early day farmers to take up a claim in Nemaha county, and one who had lived on the same farm for many years, until his retirement eight years ago, says that he remembers well his first glimpse of the old California trail that passed through Nemaha county. "I first saw it in the Elwood bottoms across the river from St. Joseph, Mo., on the first day of December, fifty-six years ago. The trail was located in the forties. It forked just west of Troy in Doniphan county. One fork went by Highland, the other across Wolf river directly through Hiawatha, Old Fairview, past Spring Grove, the farms of Ed Brown and France Dunlap, directly past the Grand Island depot in Sabetha to the Coleman farm. From there it continued to the Baker Crossing on the Nemaha, now called Taylor's Rapids. It passed through Baileyville in the west end of the county and on to Marysville, Fairbury and thence to Fort Laramie and California." The exact line of the famous old trail is always a bone of contention to early day pioneers.

In the vicinity of Sabetha are many graves of travelers, over the Santa Fe and California trail, who, unable to survive the hardships of the trip, died and were buried with scant ceremony. Mrs. Ruth Willis, who came to Nemaha county over the trail, starting from Elwood on the bank of the Missouri river opposite St. Joseph, recalled that the travel was all in the warm months. In the woods surrounding Sabetha were many wild plum trees. When the body of a forty-niner was buried the rest of the train would sit around awhile and eat plums. As a result a small plum grove grew up around every one of the early day graves. Edwin Avery, son of Mrs. Willis, whose deed to his land, which he still retains, was signed by President Buchanan, says that within a distance of sixteen miles from Sabetha he has counted thirteen such graves. All of them are directly on the old trail which has now become the highway. A few graves are scattered on adjacent farms. A famous one is on the farm of Matthais Strahm, which is called the McCloud grave. McCloud,



it is recalled, was returning from California. He was followed by an enemy who overtook him at this point, killing him. It was afterward learned that McCloud was not the man for whom the murderer was looking after at all.

Mrs. Willis was in a village store near the trail when a man and woman from St. Joseph entered the store and inquired for the McCloud grave. No one learned who they were nor why they went out to the grave. On the Chris Aeschlimann farm is another grave with the unusual tribute of a stone over it, the inscription on which said, "David Butley, August, 1844."

Majors & Russell were the government contractors whose immense wagon trains passed through Nemaha county. They delivered supplies to western forts. A regular train consisted of from forty to sixty wagons, each wagon drawn by six or seven yoke of oxen. The driver of each team outfit walked beside the wagon. The wagon boss rode on a pony and took great privileges with the king's English. Each driver carried a whip over his shoulder when not in use. The lashes on the whips were fifteen feet long. On either side of the trail for many, many years after the wagon travel ceased in Nemaha county, could be discerned plainly the footpaths made by the drivers. The regular government trains passed through Nemaha county every two weeks. In addition there was a multitude of individual freighters. The great trails were sixty feet wide and perfectly smooth. There were from 500 to 1,000 cattle in a train of fifty or sixty wagons. When the wagon boss had secured a camping place the lead team made a circle, then the next team stopped the front wheel against the first one's hind wheel, and so on until the forty or sixty wagons were in a circle with an opening of only a rod or two to leave the highway clear. At night the oxen were unyoked and turned loose to graze, and regularly employed herders herded them until morning. The hind wheels of the wagons were as high as a man's head, while the front ones were no larger than those in use at the present time. The tires were four inches wide.

Edwin Avery, at this time a young man, who had entered Kansas over the California trail, was fascinated by the precision, the regularity and yet the wildness of the conduct of these immense wagon trains. He told the story of the travel and traffic to a reporter for the *Sabetha Herald* about nine years ago. In his story Mr. Avery said: "While oxen were mostly used in pulling trains I recall that once a train of 500 horses camped on Walnut creek, twelve miles east of Sabetha en route to California. The horses drew about forty covered wagons. There were about thirty-five regular stage coaches on the trail, each drawn by four horses. I remember a train of 400 horses that passed through Fairview, seven miles east of Sabetha. This was the summer of 1859, when the great rush was to Pike's Peak. There was one continuous stream of people, some of whom appeared in very grotesque equipment. We saw men with packs on their backs, and one party of eight men had a push cart.

some pushing and some pulling it. At another time we saw twelve men with a little Sante Fe mule attached to a cart. On still another occasion we saw twenty men passing with two or three yoke of oxen hitched to one wagon. Every one of these twenty men was carrying a pick and shovel, and a pan about the size and shape of a dish pan. The pan was to wash the gold in. One day a man passed pushing a wheelbarrow. During the greatest rush to Pike's Peak, when wagons reached Jewelsburg, ninety miles this side of Denver, they met three Irishmen who had gone out the year before. The Irishmen declared that there was no gold there, it was all a humbug. That story caused a stampede eastward again. A man who was out there told me he did not think there was a spot of ground along the trail for fifty miles that did not show where a wagon had turned around and headed back eastward. So from Jewelsburg to Marysville, 300 miles, we all bought picks for twenty cents each and our wives all had ten-cent gold pans to wash dishes in."

This trail is now marked Rock Island Highway with poles painted with a ring of white, except where a corner should be turned to follow the trail to the west. Where wagons, with six-inch tires, drawn by fourteen long-eared oxen, dragged over the road at two miles an hour, now the high-powered automobile at forty miles an hour spins over the same path to Pike's Peak in two days. The wild, unsettled, unmarked prairie of half a century ago, is today a continuous row of handsome farm homes, modern cities and thriving towns. When the ox-teams traversed the same path only unbroken prairie with a few cottonwood trees, buffalo and deer disturbed the quiet.

J. L. Newton, son of Rev. Newton, the first minister in Nemaha county was an early day freighter. He drove to Kansas in 1859. The drought of 1860 ruining his crops, he took a team for overland freighting and made some money hauling supplies from Atchison for the crop sufferers. He teamed for Kearney from Atchison. One trip occupied eleven days. He unloaded over 3,000 pounds of freight each day on this trip. After the trains stopped the overland freight traffic, Mr. Newton again farmed and succeeded so well that he was able to present his sons and his foster sons with farms with which to commence their career.

There are many pioneers who recall the gathering of the immense trains of fifty or sixty wagons, ten to sixteen horses to the wagon, drawing up in a circle on the Coleman ground mentioned by Avery. The big circle may still be found occasionally. The fires were built, the horses tied to wagon wheels or staked on the prairie, songs and stories were told, and the few straggling settlers of the day huddled on the outskirts, thrilled and awed by the adventurous traveler who would brave desert, plain and Indian to discover riches in the far, far West.

In 1861 a daily overland mail was established out of Atchison by way of Sabetha and Seneca and Nemaha county, and with the exception of a few weeks in 1862, 1864 and 1865 on account of Indian troubles, the overland was in operation and ran stages daily out of Atchison for about five years.

It was the greatest stage line in the world, carrying mail, passengers and express. It was also regarded as the safest and the fastest way to cross the plains, and the mountain ranges. The line was equipped with the latest modern four and six-horse and mule Concord coaches and the meals at the eating stations along the route were first class and cost from fifty cents to \$2.00 each.

Nemaha county figured in the great overland traffic. Capioma and Richmond townships had stations for the accommodation of wagon trains on the Salt Lake route. America City, now defunct, and Vermilion were way stations on the big freight road to the gold mines of Colorado and the Rocky Mountains. The early day route of these wagons as taken from Freedom's Champion in 1859 show the historic places where the trains stopped.

The cost of shipping merchandise to Denver was very high, as everything was carried by the pound rather than by the hundred pound rate. Flour, bacon, molasses, whiskey, furniture and trunks were carried at pound rates. The rates per pound on merchandise, shipped by ox and mule wagons from Atchison through Nemaha county to Denver prior to 1860, were as follows:

Flour, nine cents; tobacco, twelve and one-half cents; sugar, thirteen and one-half cents; bacon, fifteen cents; drygoods, fifteen cents; crackers, seventeen cents; whiskey, eighteen cents; groceries, nineteen and one-half cents; trunks, twenty-five cents; furniture, thirty-one cents.

Twenty-one days was about the time required for a span of horses or mules to make the trip from Atchison to Denver and keep the stock in good condition. It required five weeks for ox trains to make the same distance, and to Salt Lake horses and mules were about six weeks making the trip and oxtains were on the road from sixty-five to seventy days. It was the ox upon which mankind depended in those days to carry on the commerce of the plains.

The fare from northeastern Kansas to Denver was \$75, or a little over eight cents per mile. To Salt Lake City the fare was \$150. Local fares ran as high as fifteen cents per mile. Each passenger was allowed twenty-five pounds of baggage.

All in excess of that was charged at a rate of \$1 per pound. During the war the fare to Denver was increased from \$75 to \$100, and before the close of the war it had reached \$175 or nearly twenty-seven cents per mile. These were the prices from Sabetha.

#### ROUTE FROM ATCHISON.

Via the Great Military Road to Salt Lake and Colonel Fremont's route in 1841.

From Atchison to	Miles	Total
Marmon Grove	3½	
Lancaster	5½	9
Huron (Cross Grasshopper)	4	13

Kennekuk	10	23
Capioma (Walnut Creek)	17	40
Richmond (head of Nemaha)	15	55
Marysville	40	95
Small Creek on Prairie	10	105
Small Creek on Prairie	10	115
Small Creek on Prairie	7	122
Wyth Creek	7	129
Big Sandy Creek	13	142
Dry Sandy Creek	17	159
Little Blue River	12	171
Road Leaves Little Blue River	44	215
Small Creek	7	222
Platte River	17	239
Ft. Kearney	10	249
17 Mile Point	17	266
Plum Creek	18	284
Cottonwood Spring	40	324
Fremont's Springs	40	364
O'Fallon's Bluffs	5	369
Crossing South Platte	40	409
Ft. St. Vrain	200	609
Cherry Creek	40	649

## CHAPTER III.

### FIRST SETTLEMENTS.

AT BAKER'S FORD—EARLY SETTLERS—SETTLERS HOLD MEETING—FIRST BRIDGE—OTHER FAMILIES COME—ELECTION HELD—BOUNDARIES DEFINED—FIRST TOWNSHIPS SETTLED—SAMUEL MAGILL—DAVID LOCKNANE—FIRST NEGRO SETTLER—SETTLEMENT IN ROCK CREEK—OTHER TOWNSHIPS FORMED—NEUCHATEL—HOME TOWNSHIP—SENECA, THE COUNTY SEAT—FERRY—ELECTION DISTRICT—FIRST WHITE CHILD BORN IN SENECA—EARLY DAY POSTMASTERS.

The first settlement in Nemaha county was on the river of the Nemaha at the famous Baker's Ford, which has since become known as Taylor's Rapids. In January, 1854,



from St. Joseph came a man named W. W. Moore, who located nine miles from Seneca, and gave the name of Moorestown to the locality. It became the center of the small settlement that ensued, and the name was changed to Urbana. It was never worthy of a name at all and long since the names of Moorestown and Urbana have faded from both map and memory. The following month came Walter Beeles,

Granberry Key and in the spring followed Thomas Newton. John O'Laughlin came out from Iowa and took up a claim on Turkey creek, and the Fourth of July the small band met for the purpose of arranging protection for one another in their claims.

This was the first settlement effected in Nemaha county. Two men from over the territorial line attended the meeting, by the names of George Bobst and Robert Turner. This was in fact the first settlement west of the Wolf river. These men were the originals in other ways than settling the first village in Nemaha county. Thomas Newton was a Baptist preacher and gathered the few settlers under his wing for church services. He performed the first marriage ceremony and preached the first funeral sermon, the latter being at the death of his son, Jacob, the first death in the county recorded, which occurred in September in the year of their arrival, 1854. Of these original settlers only Rev. Newton is accounted for to the end of his life, which occurred in 1881 after a residence of twenty-seven years in Kansas.

Of the other half dozen original settlers, W. W. Moore and Walter Beeles built the first bridge in the county. This spanned the Nemaha about half a mile below Baker's Ford. The old story goes that the builders obliged the settlers to use the bridge and pay toll for it, by felling an immense elm tree which fell across the ford, thus rendering the ford useless. But a spring freshet the next season swept away the elm, which in turn carried off the bridge, and Baker's Ford again came into its own.

The following year came a few more families: H. H. Lanhan and his family, and William Harris who gave his name to Harris Creek, which has its source near Oneida and empties into the Nemaha ten or fifteen miles north. In the summer of fifty-five came James Thompson, Cyrus Dolman, John Doyle, Elias Church and John Rodgers, all settling in Richmond township, as it became known later. With these few citizens in this township an election was held in March of that year. Ne-



A PIONEER HOME.

maha precinct and Wolf River constituted the Seventh Council District of the ten of which Kansas Territory was composed. Nemaha cast sixty-one votes at the election, while only the men named above were entitled to vote by right of actual residence in the county with the addition of Samuel Cramer, Jesse Adamson, Samuel Crozier, Samuel Miller, William Bunker and Uriah Blue.

The State legislature convened in July. Its laws were called the "Bogus Laws of Kansas" and they took effect immediately upon being passed. At least one law has remained in effect to this day, the one designating the boundaries of Nemaha county. The county is twenty-

four miles east and west and thirty miles north and south. It is bounded on the north by Nebraska, on the east by Brown county, on the west by Marshall and on the south by Jackson and Pottawatomie counties.

Meantime other corners of Nemaha county were being populated, in the year 1855. The inhabitants mentioned were all residents of Richmond township. Capioma township came into being and was filled gradually by settlers, who became the builders of the county and developers of the State. James McAllister, Robert Rea, Samuel Magill and William E. Barnes settled in Capioma township. William M. Berry and L. J. McGowan were the first settlers of Valley township and David M. Locknane was the first settler of Granada.

Samuel Magill, of Capioma, lived on the farm which he preempted for over fifty years. His deed to the farm was signed by Abraham Lincoln, and it never passed from possession of the Magill family until after Samuel Magill's death in 1909. The farm was then sold to settle the estate. Walnut trees that sprouted on the farm at the time of Mr. Magill's early ownership grew to logs so big that they were marketed in the woods to English factory firms for making into black walnut furniture. Mr. Magill realized a big sum after his retirement from active life on his farm from the forest of walnut trees. Many of these trees produced two logs. These settlers invariably took up claims along the creekside. When Mr. Magill first took up his claim, with the exception of his own trees along the Turkey creek, the whole country was a treeless desert as far as the eye could see. For several years it was three miles from his farm to that of his nearest neighbor. Deer, wolves and buffalo were plentiful. Mr. Magill helped in the first election, helped in the laying out of Capioma, built the first store building, the church and the school. Mr. Magill was always a Democrat, but he voted for Abraham Lincoln at his first vote, in a burst of sentimental appreciation of his signing his deed to the farm.

David Locknane, the first settler of Granada township, tried California before he settled in Kansas. He settled on a creek in Granada township, where the village of Granada was later, a mushroom settlement, and there he built a log house. This is the oldest building in Nemaha county. Mr. Locknane kept the Granada Hotel during the years of the war. The Granada Hotel is no more and Granada is but a name. The hotel was prepared for any event. It was an ordinary occurrence with pro- or anti-slavery bands, in the days of stress preceding the War of the Rebellion, to dash into the hotel yard and demand Mrs. Locknane to serve a dinner within fifteen minutes. At one time a band of Carolinians camped in the yard. One of them accidentally shot himself and died. General Jim Lane and his followers were frequent guests at the Locknane Granada Hotel.

It was this section of the county that had the first negro settler. Moses Fately bought his freedom from a man named Speer in Boonville, Mo. He came to Nemaha county with George Frederick and George

Goppelt, and took up a claim. He was accompanied by his wife and sister and two children, whose freedom he had also bought. He sold his claim for \$200.

Rock Creek township was a popular section. The early settlers came to that northeast corner of the county in big numbers. Archibald Moorhead, Z. Archer, Levi Joy, William and Robert Carpenter, Joseph Haigh, Thomas Priest, William Graham, A. W. Williams, James Oldfield, Edwin Miller, Elihu Whittenhall, W. B. Slosson, and half a dozen others, many of them related by blood or marriage were among the first to come. They built up their township and the towns of Albany and Sabetha, and they or their children are today living and thriving in the community of their first adoption.

Thomas Carlin, Peter McQuaid, Andrew Brewer and Alexander Gillespie were the early settlers of Nemaha and Clear Creek townships in the northwestern corner. Little by little every section of the county was being occupied, townships formed and farms cultivated. The naming of some of the townships is singular. There is Red Vermillion. To the student of whys and wherefores there has always been an underlying query as to why call anything Red Vermillion. If "Vermillion," is it not naturally red? This has never been explained by anyone so far. Garrett Randel and D. Arnold were the first settlers in Red Vermillion township.

Neuchatel township, as its name might indicate, was settled by French and Swiss. In 1857 there arrived in Neuchatel Amiel E. Bonjour, Charles Adolophe and D. S. Veale. One of the griefs of the artistic historian, who has an eye to the fitness of things, is that Neuchatel township seems to have been almost the only township in Nemaha county that did not have its cheese factory in the early days. On maps of the county are little crosses scattered around marked "Cheese Factory," but there is none marked in Neuchatel township, the place where the cheese really ought to grow.

An early day settler of Neuchatel township, who lived a life of marvelous helpfulness, was Dr. Peter Dockler. Dr. Dockler came to Nemaha county in the late fifties, settling in Neuchatel where he practiced medicine and cared for the sick pioneers, traveling miles and miles across the wild prairie to carry cheer and aid to the scattered settlers. He gathered the native herbs and brewed them, keeping up this practice during all his medical life. For years he was the family doctor of the entire countryside, who believed in Dr. Dockler and his herbs before any modern patent medicine. Later, Dr. Dockler moved to Onaga, just over the county line in Pottawatomie, but from there he continued dispensing these cures. He lived in a three room house alone, doing his own cooking and house work, nursing and nourishing the ill, and brewing his concoctions. At the age of 101 Dr. Dockler was still hearty and practicing his profession. He was born in Athens, Greece, October 5, 1805.



A name that has been identified with Neuchatel since its foundation is that of Bonjour. The death there in the spring of 1916, when this book was compiled, of Alfred A. Bonjour made one realize that Nemaha county was no longer a young community. Alfred A. Bonjour died in Neuchatel, where he was born fifty-eight years before. He lived all his life on the same section of land on which he was born. A faithfulness was thereby manifested almost unknown in this restless United States and which would not have been possible scarcely without the French forebears of Mr. Bonjour. Mr. Bonjour's funeral was attended by almost the entire township and many from the neighboring county. A brother, Ephraim, still lives on land preempted in the days of almost gift land of Nemaha county.

Home township settlers came in large numbers so that they did not get so lonesome. Among the eighteen early settlers of the township were several doctors, J. J. Sheldon and D. B. and N. B. McKay and J. S. Hidden. Others were R. Mozier, the McLaughlin brothers, the Armstrong brothers, Hezekiah Grimes, George Squire and Stephen Barnard. Dr. N. B. McKay was one of a party of four sent from Galesburg, Illinois, to locate a site in Kansas for a colony. Home township was selected and the Home Association was formed in June, 1858. After four years Dr. McKay located at America City in Red Vermillion township, where he became postmaster. Later he founded the town of Corning, which has become one of the thriving towns of the county. He named it Corning in honor of his partner in medicine, Erastus Corning, of New York. Mrs. McKay was a New Englander from Worcester, Mass., Chloe Goldthwaite.

It is recalled in the days of Seneca's rivalry with Richmond, that Senecans sowed oats in the road leading to Richmond, so that pioneers and travelers would think it an unused road and the highway to Seneca would be chosen. Richmond is long since dead, and the oats may have helped.

Marysville, county seat of Marshall county, adjoining Nemaha on the west, was founded by the same men who were incorporators of the Richmond town company, once competitor for the county seat of Nemaha county, and dying long since, as a result of her loss. The men were Woodward, the Gillaspies, Doniphans and Bishop, with M. G. Shrewsbury.

Marshall and Woodward were given the right to the ferry at Marysville across the Big Blue river on the Ft. Leavenworth, Ft. Kearney military road. "They, their heirs and assigns forever" were so rewarded, together with another crossing on the California road at Oketo. Woodward kept a store or trading post six miles north of Marysville on the famous government road. Thompson sold out the store and hotel at Richmond to Woodward. He died there in the fifties and Mrs. Woodward, his widow, became administratrix of his estate. Marshall had established himself at Marysville as an Indian trader as early as 1850, be-

fore Nemaha county had a white resident. He became a candidate for governor under the Lecompton constitution but lost. He ran on the pro-slavery ticket.

The eighteenth election district was known as Moorestown. The census was taken by B. H. Twombly and the number of voters was twenty-eight. The Kansas Territory having been divided into districts on the 8th of November, an election was speedily held by November 29, and John W. Whitfield was sent to Congress. But Moorestown, the Eighteenth district, returned no votes at this election. Moorestown was nine miles from Seneca. W. W. Moore came out from St. Joseph and settled the place, which was known later as Urbana.

Esther Hensel, the first child born in Seneca, was given a town lot by the city.

Among the early day postmasters were David Magill, of Capioma; David Locknane, at Granada; Isaac H. Steer, at Richmond; John H. Smith, at Seneca; A. W. Williams, at Sabetha; George Graham, at Albany; George L. Squire, at Centralia; and H. H. Lanham, at Central City—the first postmaster in Nemaha county to hold his commission from Franklin Pierce. A mail route had been established, during these incumbents' service, from St. Joseph to Marysville, Sabetha and Albany, being the first points in the east of the county to get direct service, Seneca receiving its mail from Central City. When Centralia was established it received mail from Seneca. Granada at this time was known as Pleasant Springs.

## CHAPTER IV.

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### FOUNDING OF TOWNS.

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ORIGINAL TOWNSHIPS—PRESENT TOWNSHIPS—ORIGINAL TOWNS—FREE STATE TOWNS—PRESENT TOWNS AND VILLAGES—CENTRAL CITY, THE FIRST TOWN—FIRST MILL—FIRST SCHOOL—RICHMOND INCORPORATED—TEMPORARY COUNTY SEAT—ASH POINT—URBANA—PACIFIC CITY—GRANADA—A. B. ELLIS—CAPIOMA—COUNTY SEAT ELECTION—SENECA WON—COURT HOUSE BURNED.

There were originally nine townships in the division of the county. Valley has completely disappeared from view, and the county has been sub-divided into twenty townships. Besides those given, there are Berwick, Wetmore, Washington, Gilman, Adams, Harrison, Reilly, Mitchell, Illinois, Marion and Center. The original Valley township was equally divided between Capioma and Adams.

Of the twelve original Nemaha county towns but four remain. The others seem to have been completely effaced, absorbed into farms, and even postoffices long since abolished, a result of rural free mail delivery. Central City, Richmond, America City, Granada, Ash Point, Pacific City, Urbana, Wheatland, Centralia, Lincoln, Seneca and Sabetha were original towns. Albany was the forebear of Sabetha, and was moved bodily to the Sabetha site two miles down the hill when the first railroad was run through the county. Seneca has remained on her original site. Centralia, however, was moved a mile from her original location. The Central Branch railroad refused to take the mile extra to reach the settlement of Centralia, so the village, like Mohamet, went to the railroad. America City has always lived on the 380 acres where it had its birth, and has not since extended such acreage very much.

E. P. Harris, who has charge of the composing rooms in the George W. Crane printing establishment in Topeka, was one of the originators of one of the early day and early buried Nemaha county towns. Mr. Harris was one of a party of men who came to Kansas by way of Nebraska to Nemaha county in 1856 to assist in making Kansas a free State. Mr. Harris' party had a scheme to establish a string of free State towns from the Nebraska line southward through Kansas. They started in by staking off the town of Lexington in Nemaha county. About the time they got started to doing business, and the town stakes

were well driven, at Lexington, Quantrill made his raid at Lawrence, and the party rushed off to that place to be of what service they could. That was about all that was ever heard of Lexington. Mr. Harris and his men never went back to Lexington. No one seems to know exactly where the would-be free State town of Lexington was laid out. Mr. Harris and his men came to Nemaha county by way of Nebraska because the pro-slavery men were thick on the river, and were in sufficient force to make it hot for free State men coming into Kansas.

While the towns of the county are conveniently scattered, so that there is a good shipping point for all produce, several townships have no towns: Clear Creek, Nemaha, Center, Mitchell, Adams, Capioma, Granada, Neuchatel and Reilly. Woodlawn, in Capioma township, a comparatively late child of the county, still thrives with store, church, school and cream station. This may put this township in the village class. And Kelly, which is mainly in Harrison township, laps over into Adams township with a few houses, which may give Adams entrance into the city class.

Of the remaining towns and villages there are Wetmore, Goff, Corning, Oneida, Baileyville, Bancroft, Berwick, St. Benedict, Bern, and the elevator and store of Price station.

Central City, the first town, was never incorporated by legislative act. It was laid out, in 1855, by William Dodge, and the first postoffice of the county established here. It lay in the neighborhood of what is now St. Benedict. H. H. Lanham was the first postmaster. A wagon and blacksmith shop, a saw and grist mill, and a store were erected upon the site. Most of these businesses were run by the Lanham and Newton families, who had come up the Missouri river from St. Louis on the old steamboat, "Banner State," that year. The store, however, was run by Benjamin Shaffer for a while, later passing into the hands of Lanham & Newton.

Overland, by ox team, was hauled the mill, and, for some time, it was run by ox-power, horses being substituted later, a dam across the river failing to develop enough power to run the mill. An attempt to use steam power was foiled by the big flood of the Nemaha in 1858, when the river reached a mile in width, and the rushing current carried the dam, windmill, grist mill, and all away on its turbid breast. The few remains were not trusted to the river vicinity again and the mill was reconstructed far from danger on the prairies. But incendiaries destroyed it by fire. Nothing daunted, its owners rebuilt it. In 1863 Lanham & Newton, still the owners, practically, of Nemaha county's first born town, bought a mill at Pawnee City in Nebraska. They removed it to Central City, thence later to Seneca, where most of Central City moved eventually.

The first school was taught by Mahlon Pugh, succeeded shortly by Mrs. Horace Newton. This was in 1859 and 1860. The Central City Church, Baptist, was organized in 1857, later affiliating with the Seneca

Baptist Church in September, 1875. When Seneca, little by little, absorbed Central City, the village resolved into farmlands, and the town was absorbed by the Bloss farm, and Central City passed on.

Richmond was incorporated by the Bogus Legislature as a twin sister of Central City, but of beliefs dissimilar. Richmond was established on the claim of Cyrus Dolman. Dolman was the first probate judge and pro-slavery man. The town corporation was given the power to purchase and hold 1,000 acres for building a town. The town was to be laid out in lots, squares, parks and avenues, and the town fathers included Daniel Vanderslice, David Gillaspie, John Doniphan, James E. Thompson, and half a dozen other men. Lanham & Newton had considerable to do in the erection of Richmond, for they built the first buildings, a dwelling, a store, and a hotel. Richmond moved to Seneca later, the dwelling being taken to the home of W. B. Stone, while the hotel eventually became a building on the Festus M. Newton farm.

Richmond was the really important first town, as all the official county business was performed there. The legislature made it the temporary county seat, which distinction it might have held, old anti-slave believers say, had it not been for its pro-slavery sentiments. The free State men were in the majority, and Richmond was not in the running.

Ash Point was largely the result of the efforts of John O'Laughlin, who established a postoffice, himself as postmaster, a general store, hotel and two or three houses. Ash Point was a stage station on the overland road, being situated at the junction of the Overland and California roads. Richmond was on the Fort Leavenworth and Fort Kearney road route. Ash Point died in the early seventies, the establishment of railroads and abolishment of the stage roads causing its demise.

Urbana actually got no farther than paper, as a town. W. W. Moore laid out a thriving town at Baker's Ford on good drawing paper. But the town of Farmington, southwest of the mythical Urbana, eventuated into a store building, hotel and blacksmith shop through the efforts of Rosalvin Perham and J. E. Perley. The townsite made a good pasture, not many years after its inception.

Orrin Gage dug a fine well on a high hill, which was so well patronized by travelers that he became inspired to erect a hotel, which was designated Pacific City. But the farmers got it. Lincoln's town plat was filed for record in the fall of 1860, and was really a prosperous village, rejoicing in two stores where in other towns but one had grown. J. E. Hocker conceived Lincoln. But its sawmill and blacksmith shop were removed to Capioma, and William Robinson long operated them on his farm.

At the beginning of the war, Granada was a thriving village. In 1856, Manaoh Terrill had erected a store at this point which was on the direct route of the old overland freight road to Denver. Granada fell a victim to the advance of civilization and railroads a few years later with the other Nemaha county towns mentioned. In the vicinity still

live many of the descendants, if not the founders themselves, of the community. The names of Swerdfeger, Vilott, Chappel, Haigh are those in daily use in the vicinity. Granada retained its postoffice until the later step into modernity came with rural free delivery, and the postoffice was abandoned. Granada, in addition to the usual buildings, boasted a drug store and a hardware store. None of the other villages that lived and died were so distinguished as that. An old map of Granada shows a good schoolhouse, a Woodman hall and about ten dwellings. The families of F. P. and John Achten, S. E. Larabee, S. R. Guffy, Sarah Skinner, Anna Stolzenberger, D. E. Crandall, C. E. Chase and A. C. Callahan are mentioned among the owners of Granada property. Many of the Granada settlers removed to Wetmore when their own village came to an untimely end. James Barnes, another early day family connected with Granada, took his family and eleven children to Granada in 1858, where he helped found the village. James Barnes' ancestors were English, and helped found the city of Baltimore. James Barnes, senior, his son and his grandson were all born on the tenth of March, twenty-five years apart. Seven brothers of the Barnes family were at one time residents of Granada.

A. B. Ellit was another settler of the prosperous Granada village. In the fifties a band of 600 Southerners raided the Ellit farm, tearing down fences, feeding all his corn and generally demoralizing his homestead. Finally there was but one yoke of oxen left. They were about to appropriate this ox team when a generous Missouri captain dashed out with a gun in his hand, crying he would kill the first man who tried to yoke them. A rumor was started that Jim Lane was coming, and the raiders departed in haste, leaving some of their own belongings, saddles and weapons behind them. Mr. Ellit, in the war that followed, fought with General Price. He was in the Quantrill raid, and a freighter to Denver. Of the pioneer days of hardship and romance, few know more than Mr. Ellit.

A town plat of Capioma town was recorded in 1859, although it had been laid out two years previously when the schoolhouse was built and a good hotel put up by Walter Gage. After nearly sixty years, the hotel building stands, although, for many years, it has been used as a residence. Capioma was named for an early-day Indiana chief.

Richmond remained the county seat under the territorial act for the first few years. All business of a legal nature was transacted from Richmond. But in the year 1858, an election was ordered to be held, on the permanent county seat. The first election was not to be final, but the three holding the highest number of votes were to be voted upon again, other contestants to step out. Central City, Richmond, Seneca, Centralia, Wheatland and Ash Point were contestants. The towns had each promised to give town lots to the county. Seneca, however, offered to build a courthouse and donate its use to the county for five years. This made excellent political thunder, and the contestants were

boiled down to Seneca, Central City, Wheatland and Richmond. Central City then retired in favor of Seneca. The fathers of Central City figured that if Seneca won, Richmond would die, and Central City live and prosper, without rival. The two towns were too close for their twin success. But, alas, for the hopes of builders of cities, such sacrifice was unrewarded. Today, one city is buried as deep in oblivion as the other.

Seneca won in the contest, although there were some legal proceedings instituted over the Graham township vote, which was given to Seneca. The county commissioners being divided, the deciding vote was given to Seneca by the chairman, George Graham. Seneca has always since been the county seat, with but rare rumors of attempts to unseat her.

The courthouse was burned in 1876, when there was a slight stir against Seneca. This amounted to nothing, and the new building, very similar to the first one, was built. Either children and matches, or mice and matches seem to have caused the fire. The Lappin brothers, Charley Scrafford, R. U. Torrey and J. B. Ingersoll were the town company. They gave the county commissioners alternate lots throughout the town, which were sold to raise money for public buildings.

## CHAPTER V.

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### FIRST EVENTS AND INSTITUTIONS.

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FIRST WHITE CHILD—FIRST MARRIAGE—FIRST BRIDGE—FIRST TEACHER—  
FIRST PIANO—INDIANS PERPLEXED—THE WHITTENHALL FAMILY—  
FIRST COUNTY COMMISSIONERS—FIRST CENSUS—DR. STRINGFELLOW  
AND JIM LANE—JUDICIAL DISTRICT—JUDGE HORTON, FIRST JUDGE  
—ELECTION—POLITICAL MEETING—AN EMIGRANT BAND—MOR-  
MONS—FIRST STORE AT FIDELITY—THE WEMPE FAMILY.

There has been little discussion in Nemaha county as to who was "first" in various matters. Contrary to the acceptance of most folks, Nemaha county people have quietly acquiesced in the claims of the few to be first, and been willing to give honor where honor is due. Therefore, so far as has been learned in sixty years, no one has claimed the honor of having been the first born child other than Molly Key, daughter of Greenbury and Polly Key, who was born in March, 1855.

Edwin Avery, who came to Nemaha county in 1858, recalls the Greenbury Keys, and he is about the only remaining citizen who remembers them. The Greenbury Keys lived in a cabin on Turkey creek, just above the James Gregg farm. One of the Key girls was married to Sanford Hess, Mr. Avery recollects, and they moved to Oregon. Frank Johnson, he thinks, was related to the Keys. Mr. Johnson has not lived in Nemaha county for some time, and Mr. Avery's recollection is that he and Mr. Johnson are the only ones living, who were here who might recall the first child's birth. Mr. Avery also recalls that Mrs. Lou Robertson's brother married one of Frank Johnson's daughters. Raveling out a family tree is something of a task, but it is more fascinating than raveling out a skein of yarn for 'crochet lace, so popular today. Mr. Avery's recollections are always remarkably correct, and it is dollars to doughnuts, that no corrections will be made to this historical anecdote.

The first marriage brought nothing to the furtherance of Nemaha county, as the "contracting parties" shortly returned to the State from whence they had immigrated shortly before. The romance is further a disappointment in that the bride and groom were both widow and widower. Charles Leachman and Mrs. Caroline Davenport were married by Rev. Thomas Newton, November 12, 1854, the marriage occur-



ring in Nemaha township. Rev. Newton also officiated at the first funeral, presumed to be that of his son, Jacob. The death was duly recorded for September, 1854. However, Mr. Davenport had also died in Nemaha county, and was buried on the farm that later belonged to Henry Korber. As Mrs. Davenport was married in November, there remains some doubt as to whose death was the first, Jacob Newton's or Mr. Davenport's.

The first bridge in the county and the vicissitudes attending it, have been recorded, as well as the first sermon.

The first Seneca school teacher was Miss Addie Smith, whose school occupied a room in the hotel building of her brother in Seneca, the first building erected there. This was a private school.

It is doubtful if any county in Kansas can lay claim to having a piano in its midst before Nemaha county. The first piano was brought to Albany in Nemaha county in 1857 by Elihu Whittenhall for the use and musical education of his four daughters, and the pleasure of his wife. The piano was a Noble and was made in Ithaca, N. Y. It was taken from Addison, Steuben county, New York, to St. Louis, by rail, thence up the Missouri river by the steamboat, "Florinda," as far as Iowa Point. From there the piano was carried overland, by the overland freight, drawn by little mule teams the remaining 100 miles. Reaching Albany, only a log house was ready to receive the piano, and it nearly filled the single room when it was put in place.

It was a delight to the settlers and a delicious perplexity to the Indians. They would creep up to the window of the cabin, stare in incredulous wonder at the piano on which someone would be playing, then they would laugh and dance, and placing their hands over their mouths, give vent to the blood-curdling Indian yell, which nearly paralyzed the musical little Whittenhall girls with terror.

But Mrs. Oscar Marbourg, of Sabetha, to whom the piano descended, said that the Indians never molested them in any way other than entering the cabin if they could get in, and taking anything to which they "took a shine." This "first" piano, at Mrs. Marbourg's marriage, went to her sister, and later it passed into the hands of a Sabetha colored family.

Four little girls came out to Kansas with Elihu Whittenhall and his wife, but two of their boys refused to come. They came out to look over the ground at one time, and nothing could induce them to stay in the "God-forsaken land of Kansas," as they called it. Mrs. Marbourg recalls that farms of forty acres sold for \$2.50 for the entire ground, which today cannot be bought for \$200 an acre. "But we had to eat and sleep on the ground," she said. Her mother would tuck the children into an improvised bed on the ground, which Mr. Whittenhall had staked out. "Go to sleep, girls," they were admonished, "for we have to go home and do the chores." Having slept a night and eaten three meals on the claimed ground, it belonged to them with the payment of

the government's \$2.50. But the boys would not stay for twenty such easily gained farms. The log house used by the Whittenhall family, while their dwelling was being erected on the hills of Albany, was low. In the day a buffalo or deer was shot, and the carcass hung in the house for meat. The wolves afar off would smell the meat, and whine around the house all night. They would jump up on the roof from the ground, and try the latch of the door with their paws. But the wolves were as timid as the Indians. Mrs. Marbourg recalls going out to the yard for wood and a wolf following her. But her mother took a stick of wood and threw at the animal, and he slunk away like a dog.

The first county commissioners of Nemaha county were Jesse Adamson, David P. Magill and Peter Hamilton. The first election for county officers was held November 8, 1859. Previous to that time officials had been appointed to office. The election resulted in R. U. Torrey, county clerk; Charles F. Warren, county treasurer; Samuel Lappin, registrar of deeds; John S. Rogers, sheriff; J. W. Fuller, county superintendent, and Haven Starr, probate judge.

The first census taken in the county showed ninety-nine residents in the county. This was in 1855. Two years later there were 512, and in 1860, nearly 2,500. The first officials of the county to serve by appointment, prior to county elections, were John W. Forman, 1855, councilman; James E. Thompson, 1855, sheriff; R. U. Torrey, 1855, county clerk; Samuel Lappin, 1855, registrar of deeds; Edwin Van Endert, 1855, county treasurer; Cyrus Dolman, 1855, probate judge; J. C. Hebbard, 1857, superintendent of public instruction. Nemaha county was one of the thirty-three original counties created by the first territorial legislature of Kansas. Nemaha county was given its present boundaries within a year after Kansas was formed into a territory by the act of congress. At that time the territory of Kansas embraced land from the Missouri river westward to the Rocky Mountains, and included over 126,000 square miles. The Nemaha river, at the time of the county's establishment, was referred to as the Nebraska. A peculiar thing about the Nemaha river, which, by the way, is not dignified by being mentioned with other rivers in Kansas histories, is that it rises in Illinois township in the southwestern part of the county and flows north through the center of the county into Nebraska. Of the other creeks and streams in the county, most of them flow east and west, generally seeking the Nemaha as an outlet. The center of the county would seem to be a watershed, for streams in the eastern part generally flow southeast.

J. H. Stringfellow received the first vote of Nemaha county in the election of March 30, 1855. Dr. Stringfellow was a pro-slavery advocate and a charming man, to the amazement of one Nemaha county pioneer who had heard of him as the miserable leader of the pro-slavery faction, and the head of the border ruffian forces. She says, "When I moved to Atchison several years later and met Dr. Stringfellow, I

dreaded to see him, thinking his face would be as black as his reputation had been painted to me. I was amazed at his charm, grace, and intellectuality."

"A story, recently revived, is told of Dr. Stringfellow. He was naturally the bitter enemy of the famous Jim Lane, whose reputation had been painted as dark as Dr. Stringfellow's by the 'opposition.' At one time, General Lane, with a bodyguard of soldiers, drove into the yard of Dr. Stringfellow. When Dr. Stringfellow went out to meet General Lane, he inquired, 'Are you not afraid to call at my house?' 'No,' replied the notorious Jim Lane, 'I am not afraid to call on a gentleman anywhere.'

"This gallant, graceful reply so captured Mrs. Stringfellow that she invited General Lane and his men to lunch."

R. L. Kirk was the other candidate to carry Nemaha county's first vote, for territorial representative, both pro-slavery men against the anti-slavery candidates, Joel Ryan and G. A. Cutler.

Brown and Nemaha counties were in one judicial district, and, prior to 1861, court was held in Hiawatha, Brown county. In November, 1861, the first district court was held in Nemaha county with Judge Albert H. Horton on the bench. Byron Sherry was the county clerk. Court was held in the original courthouse built by the city of Seneca but a short time. A religious meeting, held in the courthouse one Sunday night, was followed by a fire. A one-story building was erected for the holding of court and the county officers were scattered in other buildings around the town.

In ten years the money from town lots had so accumulated that a brick courthouse was erected at a cost of nearly \$30,000. Major Sargent broke the ground, and J. A. Storm of St. Joseph erected the house of laws. It was this building that the combination of mice, matches and children destroyed. When the new building was erected, a fireproof building apart from it was put up for the office of the registrar of deeds, where all official records are kept in the fireproof vault.

Judge Albert H. Horton, who was the first judge to sit in a Nemaha county circuit court, was an Atchison man, Nemaha, even today, has not a separate judicial district apart from Brown county. Judge Horton is said to have been the bluest-blooded aristocrat with the straightest line of descent that the district can call her own. And this, in view of the acknowledged fact that Nemaha county has many families of remarkably straight genealogy. Judge Norton could trace his ancestry in a direct line to Robert de Horton of Great Horton, England, in the thirteenth century. And the line comes down without a waver until Albert H. Horton, with his brother, arrive in Atchison in the fifties. In 1861, he was appointed district judge by Governor Charles Robinson. Later he was elected twice to the same office in the second judicial district, and attained the dignity of chief justice of the State. The town of Horton, thirty miles southeast of Sabetha, is named for Judge Horton.

A remarkable circumstance concerning this original Nemaha county election was that the returns showed that John W. Forman, a pro-slavery man and a Kentuckian, was elected to the council without a dissenting vote. Forman was a Doniphan county man, a founder of Iowa Point, one of the innumerable towns of this border county to have reached its zenith during the early days, then die. At this time Iowa Point was the second city in size in Kansas, Leavenworth alone having a few more residents. It was at Iowa Point where the "Iowa Trust



CROSS COUNTRY TRAVEL IN THE OLD DAYS.

This is George W. Williams of Deer Creek, dressed to represent his father, Eli Williams, who was sent to Lecompton as a delegate to the first convention for Statehood in Kansas. He would have carried flour, bacon, coffee, bedding, lariat, picket pin, revolver, frying pan and coffee pot on his horse.

Eli Williams was equipped ready to go when a messenger arrived from the headquarters of Jim Lane telling him and his bodyguard, Dick Clency, not to make a start, as others had been slain on their way to Lecompton and that Jim Lane and his men were on their way to the present site of Sabetha, Kans. General Lane came in a few days, but no delegate went from Nemaha at that time.

lands" were released to the government. S. M. Irwin, a pioneer missionary, was given the selection of all the land released. He chose the spot where Iowa Point was later located. J. W. Forman and his brother, H. W. Forman, bought this land. Forman's town even attained the dignity of a brick yard, and reached much prosperity. When Iowa Point died, J. W. Forman, who should go down in history as a candidate unanimously elected to a State office, removed to Missouri.

Mrs. P. W. Cox, of Gilman township near Oneida, recalls the first political meeting at Richmond. Although but a little girl of nine years, it is one of her childhood recollections because of the fact that her father was elected a representative of Nemaha county. Mrs. Cox's girlhood name was Williams, and she was the daughter of Eli Williams.

"My father rode on horseback to Lecompton and back to consider the historical Lecompton constitution," said Mrs. Cox. "Eli Williams, my father, and Eliza Williams, my mother, with five children, and Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Williams and Amon English made up our emigrant band. We settled on Deer creek. After we left the government road, there was nothing for us to follow but Indian trails—no friendly guideposts to direct our way. We were told to take the divide at McCloud's grave, which had become a signpost, that would take us to Deer creek. We traveled in a large covered wagon drawn by oxen. We brought horses, cattle, hogs, chickens an old cat and three kittens. We had only journeyed from Atchison county, Missouri, so the transportation of so much live stock was not so difficult as for those who had crossed half a continent. There was not one family living between where we settled and Brown county, and only two shanties stood where people held claims.

"We saw many Mormons passing us on their way to the 'promised land.' In passing, the Mormons drained what we called Murphy lake, in the month of August, 1855. They were so hungry they drained the lake, caught and ate the fish. Forty in the party died. They were buried near the lake. Many of them had cholera. When they left the encampment they left behind them beds, wearing apparel and clothing of all kinds scattered around. I saw clothing that was torn off the dead, three or four months after the Mormons left."

Of the children who arrived with Eli Williams, besides Mrs. Cox, three became fine Nemaha county citizens, of fifty years' and more standing: George, Boyd and Amon Williams.

Anton Wempe was the first store-keeper of Fidelity. He had a store there for several years, which he sold in 1892. The rural delivery put the Fidelity store out of business, as it did most of the solitary country stores. Fidelity church, however, was much older. Fidelity had a small church building back as far as 1866 to 1868. There was no resident priest for many years, a priest serving from Atchison, who just came occasionally, when weather or conditions generally, permitted. In about 1893 the present, handsome Fidelity Church was built. From time to time it has been added to and improved, until now it is quite the handsomest of country churches nearby.

The father of the Wempe family, Hermann Henry Wempe, came to Nemaha county in 1858 to locate. They came by way of Atchison. While there a pickpocket robbed Mr. Wempe, senior, of his pocketbook and money. He continued to Seneca, however, and picked out a farm, on which he located. He brought his family out here in 1861. A few

days after they were settled he suddenly died; that was the fifth of July, 1861. In the settlement of the estate Anton Wempe bought the shares of the other brothers and sisters in the homestead farm, and lived on it for many years. His youngest daughter has recently taken the veil at Mt. St. Scholastica in Atchison and is known as Sister Mary Mauruss. A son is in C. C. K. Scoville's bank in Seneca.

## CHAPTER VI.

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### INDIAN HISTORY.

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TRADITIONS OF GREAT DAKOTAHS—TREATY OF 1806—BELIEVED IN A  
“GREAT SPIRIT”—TREATY WITH THE GOVERNMENT—CEDED LANDS—  
POTTAWATOMIES—AUNT LIZZA ROUBIDOUX BARRADA—PAWNEE BUR-  
IAL GROUND—CHARACTERISTICS—VANISHED RACE—TREASURE RELIC  
—AN INDIAN TRAGEDY—NO RESIDENT INDIANS—A MODERN INCI-  
DENT—AN INDIAN BURIAL—MODERN CONDITIONS—RESERVATIONS—  
SOLDIERS PENSIONED.

By Alice Gray Williams.

Whom the Indians delight to call, “Soniskee,” meaning “Our Good Red Mother.”

The old Indian tribes had no written history. Their history was passed from father to son. From some of the oldest Indians now living I have gained the knowledge of Indian tradition, customs and life.

It is said by these Indians, and history bears them out in their statements, that the first Indians of Kansas were a part of the Great Dakota Tribe, and that they came here with the great bands of Indians who migrated from the north of the Great Lakes. They wandered around for many years and finally settled on the Missouri river and its tributaries. They were called the Kansas or Kaw Indians and the Osages. The Kansas had as their territory the land from Nebraska on the north to Arkansas on the south and all west of the Missouri river. The Osages were to have Missouri and all the land along the Missouri and that along the Osage river, and part of their hunting grounds extended into Kansas.

For many years they dwelt in this manner, but they were unfriendly. Fair maidens were stolen from tribe to tribe, as they were not allowed peaceful marriage, and this alone caused endless trouble.

They spoke the same tongue, and their tribal affairs were managed in the same manner.

In 1806 our Government helped them to make a peace treaty with each other which each tribe kept sacred, and then they combined forces against the hated Pawnees and the whites, who were intruding on their hunting grounds. Their depredations became so numerous and so

serious that the Government called a Council near the present site of Atchison on an Island called Ise Au Vache, or Buffalo Island. This council was a great affair. It is said that there were some 150 Kanzan and thirteen Osages there, representing their powerful and mighty tribes. Officers of the garrison were present. The Council was closed. Peace prevailed and the peace pipe filled with Kln-ni-ki-nick was smoked and the Indians kept their promises, and no depredations were ever committed by them. These Indians believed in the Great Spirit, or Waconda, and they believed in life beyond the grave. They were honorable in their family life and were kind to their squaws and children. Let me say right here, an Indian never strikes his child. No whipping is allowed in their homes or schools. The women managed the household affairs and did the work, but be it said in the old time Indian life the squaws did the "bossing" around the wigwams, but had no voice in the affairs pertaining to the warpath, or to the lands, or their tribes. The first treaty between the United States and these tribes was made in 1815. In this treaty the past was blotted out and forgiven and these tribes recognized our Government and pledged their loyalty to it.

In 1825 the United States Government treated with them for the cession of their lands in Kansas and Missouri. In this treaty they ceded all of the lands in eastern Kansas: "Beginning where the Kansas River empties into the Missouri to the northwest corner of Missouri, thence to the Nodaway River, thirty miles from its entrance into the Missouri River; from there to the entrance of the Nemaha River into the Missouri to its source, which took in the present county of Nemaha. From here to the source of the Kansas River, then on to the ridge dividing the Kansas River from the Arkansas, and on to the west border of the Missouri and with that line thirty miles to the place of beginning."

The United States agreed to pay them \$3,500 per year for twenty years, either in money or merchandise. In addition they were to furnish the cattle and hogs and farm implements, a farmer and a blacksmith. Thirty-six sections of land on the Big Blue were to be sold and the money from that sale was to be kept for the use of their schools.

In 1846 the Kanzas and their neighboring tribes ceded all their lands to the United States Government.

From this time on they began to deteriorate. They were moved to Oklahoma and the climate did not agree with them there. I am told by the oldest Indians now living that there are now but a few poverty stricken ones left, of this once wealthy and powerful tribe, from which the fair State of Kansas derived its beautiful Indian name. Kansas in the Indian tongue means "Smoky."

At this time the Pottawatomie Indians had no home so the United States gave them this land of the Kanzas for their homes. It contained 576,000 acres.

The Pottawatomie Indians were in possession when our forefathers came here. They were peaceful Indians and their lands were the hunt-



ing and play grounds for the mighty southwestern tribes. Buffalo and deer were plentiful and the prairie was covered with rich grass.

These tribes were what was known as the "Horse Indians" because they had ponies. Many tribes had no horses at that time.

"Chama," meaning "grandma" in the Indian tongue, told me her mother said that a day's ride west from the Missouri river, there were once some Ground Indians, who lived in holes dug-deep down and that they covered them over with poles and skins and that when these Indians left or were driven west that the covering dropped in, and so made the holes we call buffalo wallows.

Aunt Lizza Roubidoux Barrada, a great-granddaughter of Joseph Roubidoux, the founder of St. Joseph, says that when she was a girl and when Chama was a girl that the Pawnees came here a day's ride to the west of her home at the mouth of the Great Nemaha, and stayed and lived for several years, and fought the Iowas. She says the Iowas whipped them so completely, that they went away and never came to fight the Iowas again. A Pawnee burial ground is still pointed out to the visitor on the Iowa Reservation, on the Great Nemaha River. Skulls and arrow heads are found there to this day. Chama says that Iowas said the number of Pawnees were like the leaves upon the trees. The Pottawatomies were allotted and some of them took land of their own and some went to Oklahoma. Some went to a reservation in Jackson county, Kansas, where many of them still reside. G. W. Williams, who is one of the oldest settlers of this vicinity, says when he was a small lad many Indian tribes passed through Nemaha county visiting other tribes. Hundreds at a time could be seen winding along the trails, along the creeks. Sometimes there would be a bunch go into camp and hunt and fish and then, like the Arabs of old, would "Silently fold their tents and steal away." They were a silent people. Sometimes they would sing and dance their war dances to amuse the boys and girls who would call upon them.

The Indian is a very matter-of-fact person and does not often joke, yet sometimes he will play a little joke. I give a few of their jokes below:

"One lone Indian came to a house near Oneida and posed as a Big Medicine Man. The head of the family with whom he stayed had very sore eyes. The Medicine Man treated them all winter and suddenly left in the spring. The patient could see much better so he took the medicine to a doctor to be analyzed and the doctor found the stuff to be just plain water.

"An old Indian came to a settler's home almost naked. The children hunted up some old clothes and dressed him up and then the old fellow, who, it was thought, did not know one word in English, strutted around and said, 'Me heap big white man now,' and disappeared. He perhaps had been educated at some Mission school.

"Another time the Indians were eating when the white folks came

and sat down with them to eat. They had beef for dinner, and some mutton roasted. One young fellow said: 'What kind of meat is this?' The Indian at the head of the table said: 'Bow wow,' and the white man was puzzled, but it was just a joke pulled off by poor Lo.

"A white man and an Indian went hunting. The white man shot a deer, the Indian a turkey. The white man was tired and said, 'Oh, dear me.' The Indian promptly said, 'Oh, turkey me.' The Indian boasted of his turkey, thinking the white man boasted of his deer."

The games played by them on the ground where Oneida now stands were Indian ball and squaw ball for the women and girls. They measured their strength with these games, each tribe always trying to be the winner. An Indian treasures his ball bat as he does his gun or bow and arrow, and always takes it with him on any visit he makes to other tribes.

But the old Indian has passed away and only the young progressive Indian is to be found here now. They are quietly living on their reservations.

There has been much written about the Indian. No nation has had so much written about them. They were so strangely picturesque. Their dress was beautiful, and their handiwork very primitive, yet so grand. They are a vanishing race, but their memory will be forever perpetuated in the names which have been given to our towns, counties, States, mountains, rivers and lakes. Though we have never had a reservation located here since we have had a county, yet Oneida, Nemaha county, Kansas, sounds sweet to us, and it is all Indian.

The Indians in Nemaha county were merely annoying. No one has ever told of trouble from them with but one or two brilliant exceptions. An occasional connection with Indian troubles came to Sabethans, however. Joseph Prentice, a Sabetha farmer, unearthed a treasure a few years ago, resulting from an Indian raid of early times. The Indian trouble occurred in Nebraska. Prentice was an early day merchant. In the course of trades he came into possession of a Nebraska farm where the raid occurred. A story has been current for years, that when the Indians attacked a party of emigrants on the way to fortune in the far West, a man named Wilcox buried a can of money on the farm. His brother searched the ground over for the money upon the death of the man who was wounded in the Indian fight. The farm, as a farming proposition, had not been considered of much worth. But one day Joe Prentice determined to get something out of his trade if it took deep plowing and he plowed his ground deep. On a rather steep incline near the house he plowed up a rusty apple or tomato can. It was found to have \$2,136.50 in silver and gold. Joseph Prentice said that the real lesson in this, is that "any farmer will turn up money if he plows deep."

Nemaha county was connected with a real Indian tragedy, although our own Nemaha county Indians did not commit the crimes. It was the Cheyennes who attacked Nemaha county travelers when they were

traveling to Colorado overland, in August, 1874. John German with his five daughters and one son, were in Chautauqua county traveling in their covered wagon to Colorado hoping to benefit the health of Catharine. Catharine and the brother were driving the cows some distance in the rear of the wagon. As they came over a hill they saw the wagon attacked by the Indians, the father, mother and one sister were killed before the horrified eyes of the boy and girl. The Indians saw them and killed the boy. Four sisters, Julia, Sophia, Adelaide and Catharine, were then carried by the Indians four days, with but one stop for food. During their travels they passed a soldiers camp. Once two of the girls were left behind with two Indians and when the latter overtook the main band Adelaide and Julia were not with them. The older sisters thought they had been killed. But the Indians had simply abandoned them on the prairie to starve. Adelaide and Julia wandered over the prairie until they came to the soldiers' camp where they found an old blanket, corn and crackers, and for six weeks the little things lived on these abandoned scraps, with hackberries which grew plentifully and the clear spring water at hand. Later when the little round-eyed girls attended school at Sabetha, their playmates hung on every word of this experience as they told it again and again. One night they awoke to find themselves covered with leaves. Doubtless some animal, already satisfied as to appetite, covered the little girls for future use as he hoped. Finally they were discovered by soldiers, and were so dirty that the men would not believe they were white. The men wept when the tots told of their sufferings. Meantime Catharine and Sophia had been separated, the former accompanying the Cheyennes into New Mexico and Sophia going to Colorado with a band of Arapahoes. By the time Catharine reached the Texas border, she had lost track of time, and hope of recovery. But when she met Chief Stonecalf in Texas her hope revived for the great chief was grieved at the attack on her people. "I will try to take you home to your people," he said, "but it will take long, long." And he did. Not long afterward they began to move eastward. But it did take "long, long." The snow was on the ground. Many braves died of hunger. One night when they reached a canyon with good water and plenty of wood, Indians from other bands came straggling in and with them, to her happiness, came Sophia. In some way Sophia had heard of the rescue of the little sisters, and that General Miles was searching for the two older ones. Although the girls were not allowed to be together they were kept in the same camp. And a few days later Chief Stonecalf told them that the Indians had decided to give themselves up to the white chief and take the little girls back. When they reached General Miles' camp the Indians were lined up and the girls pointed out which ones were in the original band that killed their parents, brother and sister. These Indians were sent to St. Augustine, Fla. General Miles took the guardianship of the girls for two years, when they were taken first to Lawrence and later to Leavenworth. In Leavenworth, Pat Corney

became their guardian, and a few years later Catherine married Amos Swerdfeger, a brother of Mrs. Corney. They removed to Granada township, Nemaha county, and later to Sabetha, where the younger girls were graduated from the Sabetha schools. Mrs. Swerdfeger says, "When we reached the soldiers' camp all the soldiers were lined up and cheered us. I still feel a lump in my throat when I think of it. I thought I had never seen such white people, they looked as white as snow. My being so accustomed to red people was why they looked so white and pretty." Mrs. Swerdfeger lives in California now. Julia is Mrs. Brooks, also of California; Mrs. Frank Andrews lives in Berwick, Nemaha county, and Mrs. Albert Feldman, near the Nemaha county line in Richardson county, Nebraska. They are Adelaide and Sophia.

Nemaha county never had any resident Indians. The Kickapoos on one side of the county are in Brown county, the Sac and Fox tribes have always been in Jackson county. It is possible that the twenty miles on either side of the Nemaha river, having been exempted from Indian claim, resulted in the Indians never taking up a residence in the county, for the Nemaha runs north and south near the center of the county, which is forty miles wide. But the Indians have always made frequent and invariably friendly calls on their white Nemaha neighbors. The latest call happened within a few months of this writing and is an interesting illustration of the Indians' acceptance of modern conditions and his endurance of the primitive at one and the same time.

Lucette Goslin, the little six-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Goslin, of the Indian reservation located in Jackson county, was brought to the Sabetha hospital by her mother. The child had been swinging, while she had in her mouth a small wheel from a toy train of cars. The wheel became lodged in her windpipe and she was taken to the Sabetha hospital for its removal, under the modern, advanced surgical conditions and surroundings suitable for her surest recovery. Meantime Mrs. Goslin, the mother took a room at a hotel. During the night she gave birth to a baby. The next morning she got up, wrapped the new little papoose in approved Indian fashion, visited her little daughter at the hospital and returned to her reservation, with the new member of her family. But the little girl remained at the hospital a week longer to recover from her throat trouble.

The Indians in northeastern Kansas were generally peaceful and friendly. It is recalled that sixty years ago a son of Tohe, an Iowa chief, whose reservation is still at White Cloud in Doniphan county, was buried with honors, and many white friends attended to mourn with the Indian brothers the loss of "a good Indian." He was buried in a sitting posture on the surface of the ground upon the top of a high hill, with his face to the setting sun and bows and arrows, a war club and a pipe near him, to cheer and protect him on the Long Journey. His pony was shot and buried beside him. They were covered over with a mound of earth, a white flag raised and charms placed around the mound. Doni-

phan county is filled with such mounds and is a veritable mine for Indian collectors. But not one such Indian mound is known to exist in Nemaha county.

Today it is an annual event for Nemaha county people to press the self starter of their automobiles and spin over to the Kickapoo Indian reservations for the powwow of the Indians. Each year the powwow becomes more and more like American events. The best baseball games of northeastern Kansas are played on these occasions by picked Indian college boys who attend school at Carlisle or Haskell and whose parents live on the reservation. The "Squaw ball" and Indian ball games, however, remain very interesting events, and old and young Indians from six years to sixty enter both games.

But so late as 1884 it was more than a couple of hours' run over to the reservation. C. H. Isely, of Spring Grove, tells of a trip made to the reservation from his farm near Sabetha in the month of August of that date. The drive part way was even then across the open prairie, through unfenced lands, which now are worth from \$100 to \$200 an acre. The care and conduct of the Indians were criticised by Mr. Isely at that time, a condition which is vastly improved now, except for the fact that the worst road in northeastern Kansas runs through the Government lands on the reservation. It is said it is the only section of the State without a road drag. The farms of the Indians themselves, however, were well kept in 1884, and are today.

About this time Congressman Morrill endeavored to get a bill through Congress removing the Kickapoos from Brown county to Wisconsin. It failed. Occasionally the matter is brought up for discussion but nothing done. The Indians are peaceable, well behaved neighbors, as industrious as many of their white friends, and people generally see no reason why they should be taken from the home of their fathers and placed elsewhere.

The first pensioning of soldiers of the State militia emanated from this district through Congressman Morrill. Mr. Morrill asked to have three soldiers pensioned who lost their legs through freezing when called out by Governor Osborne to quell an Indian uprising in the southwestern part of the State in 1873. He finally secured fifty dollars a month for the three men, establishing a precedent that it was the regular soldier's duty to enter such fights and that if State soldiers were injured they should be rewarded.

## CHAPTER VII.

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### TRANSPORTATION.

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EARLY DAY METHODS—THE OX TEAM—EARLY TRAILS—ADVANCEMENT SLOW—RAILROAD "TALK"—BONDS VOTED—ST. JOSEPH AND DENVER—ST. JOSEPH AND GRAND ISLAND—ROCK ISLAND—MISSOURI PACIFIC BRANCHES—HOW THE RAILROADS AFFECTED TOWNS—"RAILROADS ON PAPER"—AUTOMOBILES—ST. JOSEPH AND GRAND ISLAND THE PIONEER RAILROAD—A TRADING POST—FREIGHTING—FERRY ON THE BIG BLUE—GOVERNMENT LAYS OUT A MILITARY ROAD—CALIFORNIA EMIGRATION—STAGE LINES—MARYSVILLE, PALMETTO AND ROSEPORT RAILROAD—OTHER RAILROAD COMPANIES.

Driving from her home in Nemaha county to St. Joseph over the smooth dragged roads in her high power motor car in October, 1915, a Nemaha county woman, who barefooted had herded cattle and sheep on her father's farm in pioneer days, recalled the mode of travel to St. Joseph at that time. She was rushing along at thirty miles an hour, secure in the knowledge that within three hours she would reach her destination with time for rest and lunch before listening to the Boston Symphony orchestra, which, by a special car, had come to the western city to give a concert.

"When I was a little girl," she said, "we took three days to make this trip by ox team. Father and one of the big boys always went, and usually they tucked one of us little girls in for the pleasure of the trip. With our yoke of oxen we started across the prairie, paying no attention to roads, merely going in the general right direction by the shortest cuts. If we came to an obstacle, we simply drove around it. The oxen made about two miles an hour, sometimes two and a half, but rarely that. It took us three days to go. We camped by the road at night, and, of course, took plenty of food to keep us going and coming, as it was doubtful where we would find food to spare en route. A night's rest and the day spent in buying dry goods and the necessary things to keep us the balance of the year, and we started from St. Joseph on our return trip. And now here I am spinning over the same road in an automobile at thirty miles an hour. The railroad train, which we then thought beyond our dreams of acquisition in our

wooded, hilly country, is now too slow, and we would rather stay at home than take the boresome ride of three hours by train."

The ox team was the general mode of travel in the early days. Many a Nemaha county family recalls traveling from Ohio, Illinois, even Pennsylvania, by ox or mule team. White Cloud in Doniphan county, sixty or seventy miles away, was an Indian mission. Food, clothing and furniture and necessities were taken to White Cloud on the old Missouri river side-wheeled steamboats. One Nemaha county woman recalls that her mother needed more furniture to comfortably accomodate her growing family. With mule team they started out with two children and wagons to drive to White Cloud, over hill, valley, prairie and unbridged stream, to bring home the needed furnishings. The trip was an event, and the furniture was safely brought back to the delight of the waiting children at home.

Men and women who herded their father's cattle and sheep over the unfenced fields and pastures of Nemaha county's early days are now flying around in automobiles and looking with assurance on the eventual ownership of an aeroplane. Spinning by field after field a Nemaha county man said: "I have herded stock over every foot of this ground. Just there was a lake, above it was another. We called this rise 'the big hill' and it is scarcely more now than a moderately undulating field. The topography of the country has changed, almost comparatively with our mode of transportation. I have stood on the back of my pony in my bare feet and galloped over hill and dale to corral my cattle. Horse back and across lots was the way we got around those days. Today we are not allowed on the wrong side of a built road. We must pass a man on the left side. We must pull to the right, and we cannot cut across a street that a policeman does not grab us by the arm and pull us the right way. Those were truly the days of freedom, if the method was in a measure slower than it is today."

And it was several years before the method of transportation was advanced materially in Nemaha county from the ox team, the mule train, the Indian pony or the spanking, stylish team for Sunday use.

As early as 1860, there was, of course, "talk" among the settlers of getting a railroad into Nemaha county. St. Joseph was to be the starting point, and the railroad was to extend through the northern tier of Kansas counties. The road was in fact laid for a few miles from St. Joseph through Elwood and as far as Wathena. But the unsettled conditions, and then the declaration of war, stopped all preparations or even thought of railroads. During all that stressful period, mail was brought to the county only by overland and pony service. Even Nemaha county forgot the railroads, for Nemaha county sent most of her men to the war.

In 1862, a desultory attempt was made to revive the railroad question in Doniphan county, but few attended the called meeting. Two years later, the broth was again stirred at Seneca, which was as mea-

gerly attended as at the Doniphan meeting. The hearts of the people were at the front, their souls and bodies could find no comfort in the thought of a railroad at that time. But 1865 saw an end to the hostilities. The remaining soldiers were gathered beneath their own roofs, and the cultivation of vine and fig tree again commenced. Then was the railroad found to be a necessity, and no one stood upon the order of its securing.

In the spring of 1866 an election was held to vote bonds for \$125,000 to aid in the building of a railroad. The election carried and a meeting was held a few days later in Hiawatha, Brown county, for organizing a company to further the railroad acquirement. Samuel Lappin, of Seneca, was made president of the organization, F. H. Drenning, secretary, and W. B. Barnett, treasurer. Eleven directors, three of whom were Nemaha county men, were elected as a board of directors. In the fall of that year two roads were consolidated and named the St. Joseph & Denver. But Nemaha county did not get her share of the road until four years later. "Rome was not built in a day," neither are railroads extended in that length of time. In 1870, however, the road entered Nemaha county at Sabetha, legal differences and other matters having been adjusted. It continues west through Oneida, Seneca, Baileyville and on through Nemaha county, Marshall county, thence into Nebraska to Grand Island.

The railroad is owned by the Union Pacific, and is called the St. Joseph & Grand Island. Nemaha county people have always laughed over their exclusive railroad and put up with it. It is one of the best "feeders" in the country, traveling as it does through the most productive and richest part of Kansas and Nebraska. A Nemaha county man was far away from home recently looking at a motion picture play which had been made in the East. His great surprise and amusement at seeing a bunch of "strike breakers" unload from a St. Joseph & Grand Island box car, took him directly back to the pastures green of his boyhood home.

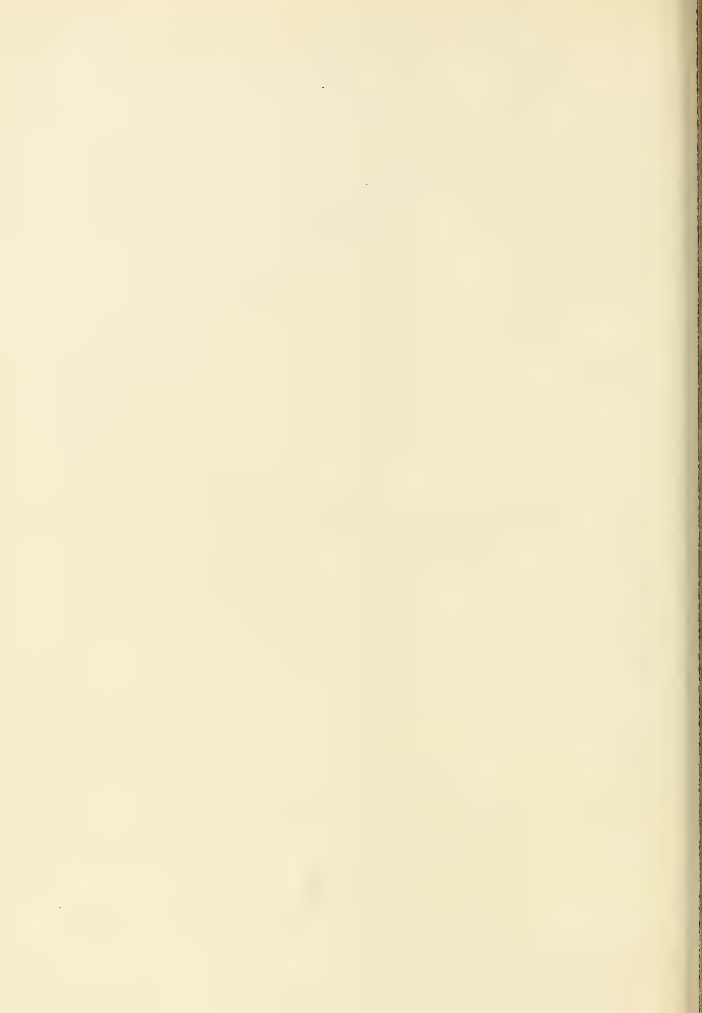
The northeastern section of the county, several years afterward, secured a branch of the Rock Island railroad, which enters the county at Sabetha, extends northwest, leaving it at Bern and extending to Fairbury, Neb., thence connecting with through trains from Chicago to Denver.

In the southern part of the county runs the Central Branch of the Missouri Pacific, which was the first railroad to enter the county. The Central Branch was surveyed as early as 1863, and was ably aided by the State and government in its advance across the State of Kansas. It was given scandalous assistance and has become the stock joke of the kerosene circuit actor, who aims his batteries at the Central Branch's inefficiency and always receives tumultuous applause for his jibes. The Central Branch was given \$16,000 a mile for a distance of 100 miles from Atchison to Waterville. It enters Nemaha county at Wetmore and





EARLY DAY TRANSPORTATION ON THE PLAINS.



continues west through Goff, Corning and Centralia, across the entire southern section of the county. The State also ceded to the railroad alternate sections of land along its track on both sides, and the territories back of these sections for a distance of ten miles. The county, having given its birthright to such an extent, was not obliged to give hard cash. In 1866 the railroad reached Wetmore, and Centralia a year later. Wetmore was established by the entrance of the railroad.

It was now that numerous Nemaha county towns virtually picked up their beds and walked. Having endeavored to induce the railroads to come to them and failed, the residents of the neglected town moved to the railroads.

The grade over the hills to Albany, one of the earliest towns in the county, was found unfeasible by the surveyors of the St. Joseph & Grand Island railroad. So Albany was lifted bodily and taken to Sabetha, which was easier of approach.

Centralia moved over the hill to the Central Branch railroad, a distance of a mile, after having her root, if not her branch, firmly in the ground for seven years previous.

The original Corning became known as "Old Corning" when the new Corning was established on the railroad. Old Corning was a mile and a half away, and that part of it which did not move to the New Corning on the railroad, dissolved into farm lands.

While these towns moved, others were established on the railroad as need came, and still others faded gradually away as the need for them lessened, as has been told in forerunning pages.

From Kansas City to Seneca was established another branch of the Missouri Pacific some years after these original through railroads. It is the Kansas City Northwestern and goes through the western part of the county, through Centralia, Goff and Seneca to Virginia City, Neb.

The early and intermediate history of Nemaha county is woven with day and night dreams of railroads gridironing this section of the country. Especially in the early days, the vision of the Kansas pioneer knew no bounds. The flights of imagination were confined to no trade or profession. If a blacksmith opened a shop on a cross roads, his fancy, as he hammered on his anvil, built a magic city upon the fields and prairies that surrounded him.

Railroads were built on paper in every part of Nemaha county and a divisional headquarters, eating house and shops were located in the particular spot on which the dream originated. So strange is the turn of events that the visions of railroads of the early days are today changed into dreams of automobiles and paved highways throughout the county, a dream that probably will be realized before this history is many years old. The railroads are growing less important in the scheme of life except as freight carriers.

As an example, we smile today at the Netawaka, Woodland & Northwestern Railway Company. This railroad project got into the

serious class in 1884, when articles of incorporation were filed for the building of the road. The charter of the company located the line from Netawaka via Granada, Woodland and Oneida to Pawnee City, Neb., where, in the big imaginative scheme, it would interest the old B. & M. line. At Netawaka, of course, the road had an outlet in the Central Branch and "all points east."

So it went. There was agitation for months. But the same was true of other localities, each of which had its pet railroad scheme at different times.

Even as late as ten years ago the Falls City, Sycamore Springs, Sabetha & Southwestern railroad was planned. Sycamore Springs had developed a big sanitarium. W. L. Kauffman, the proprietor, and the community in general saw big things in this new railroad. The community, in other words, lost none of its optimism and its faith. This project was pushed hard and for a time it looked as if the railroad would be built by the sheer force of the enthusiasm of its promoters. A blue print of the route was made, a careful survey having been completed.

Mr. Kauffman, a prime mover for the railroad, had made a noted place of Sycamore Springs. He had the Kansas spirit. He believed in his springs. The springs had a traditional fame. Indians had gone there to be cured for unknown generations. This is shown by archeologists who examined the locality and arrived at their conclusions from the type of relics unearthed in that locality.

Miles from the nearest town, Mr. Kauffman erected a stone hotel of sixty rooms at the springs. He equipped it with a waterworks system and other modern conveniences, and the "world made a path to his doorway." Then, having erected this modern hostelry out in the open country, he proceeded to arrange for a railroad to it, tapping numerous lines of railway at Falls City and Sabetha.

Then came the automobile. It was the last railroad dream of the pioneer.

The St. Joseph & Grand Island railroad was the pioneer road of Kansas. Its three miles of track laid from St. Joseph to near Wathena in 1860 were the original rails of steel into a future garden spot, then regarded as an enterprise of doubtful value. While the Grand Island was the first Kansas railroad, it was not the first line into Nemaha county, for the old Atchison & Pike's Peak line, now known as the Central Branch, traversed the southern part of the county before the Grand Island was completed west of Hiawatha.

W. P. King, a writer of fifteen years ago, tells a very interesting story of the trials, troubles and tribulations of the Grand Island, and relates the history of its inception. A history of Nemaha would not be complete without giving the early record of the Grand Island. For it was this line with which the county most concerned itself. And it is the Grand Island that has figured most prominently in the progress and prosperity of the county.

The section of country tributary to the St. Joseph & Grand Island was a part of the Missouri territory, and in 1854, when the Kansas-Nebraska act was passed, was comprised in the Great American desert. The only part of Kansas that was then believed as likely ever to be of value was that north of the Kansas river and west as far as the Big Blue river. Included in this territory is Nemaha county.

All the territory outside of this boundary was esteemed to be the home and heritage of the wandering Indian tribes and the buffalo. Kansas was inhabited by many tribes of Indians who had reservations. Upon the northern part opposite St. Joseph were the Sac and Fox Indians and the Iowa Indians, removed from the Missouri side and one time owners of the Platte purchase.

Joseph Robidoux, founder of St. Joseph, had in 1826 established a trading post at the mouth of the Blacksnake to catch the trade of the Indians passing from Agency Ford, Grand River and Western Missouri to Highland, in Doniphan county, Kansas, where there was quite an Indian settlement. At that date the country, after passing a few miles west of St. Joseph, was covered with buffalo grass. The rains were infrequent in summer and grass and herbage generally dried up by August, so it was hardly possible to pass over the country west of the river in the fall or winter with teams. In 1853, 1854 and 1855 there was no running water from June until November between the Missouri river and the Big Blue. Parties from St. Joseph, sending out goods in wagons to the stations during those months, had to carry water with them. Today there are many streams and hundreds of springs that never go dry. This change is largely due to the ground cultivation and the cessation of burning the prairies every fall by the Indians in order to confine the game to the small wooded valleys of the streams.

A ferry was established at the Big Blue at a Pawnee trading post known now as Marysville, and in 1853 General Frank Marshall and James Doniphan bought it. In 1854 he laid out the town of Marysville and named it for Mrs. Mary Marshall, calling the county Marshall for General Marshall.

In 1849 the United States sent out a regiment of soldiers, laid out a route known as the military road, from Ft. Leavenworth to the Big Blue at Marysville, and built forts at Laramie, Ft. Hall and the Dalles. This was the main route traveled by the Argonauts of California south of the Platte for many years and much the larger number traveled this route.

In 1850, a large part of the California emigration crossed at St. Joseph and passed up Peters creek by Troy, Kans., and united with the military road at Kinnekenick, in Brown county, and thence through Nemaha county to the Big Blue at Marysville.

When the territory was admitted, in 1854, many settlers rushed into Doniphan county, as the lands were esteemed valuable. But settlements were pushed out in Brown, Nemaha and Marshall counties. Up to 1861 there were few settlers except in small towns and stage sta-

tions. Marshall county, now one of the largest corn producing counties of the State, was then believed to be barren soil, unable to produce anything except sunflowers and buffalo grass. Beyond the Big Blue but few settlements were made until the railroads penetrated that region.

In 1854, Magraw, the conductor for the stage line across the continent, had established a station at Guittard, nine miles east of Marysville, another two miles from Hanover called Hollandberg; another at the mouth of Elk Creek, where it joins the Little Blue; another on the Big Sandy, one at the Lone Elm in the Platte valley and then at Ft. Kearney.

The idea of the originators of the St. Joseph and Grand Island railroad was to follow as nearly as the topography of the country would allow, this route to the valley of the Big Platte, and then to the Pacific as laid out by the military road. The country is now a prolific farming region, one of the most highly cultivated and productive in the Union. A colony of South Carolinians, becoming tired of trying to make Kansas a slave State, bought the claim adjoining Marysville and called the town Palmetto. In February, 1857, the Kansas Legislature passed an act chartering a railroad from St. Joseph to the Big Blue, "The Marysville, Palmetto & Roseport railroad," entitled as follows: "An act to incorporate the Marysville, or Palmetto & Roseport Railroad Company; approved February 17, 1857."

The charter named as incorporators Robert M. Stewart, afterward Governor of Missouri; W. P. Richardson, Indian agent at Doniphan, Kans., one of the sturdy pioneers of the West; Gen. J. F. Marshall, then a citizen of Marysville; Belah M. Hughes, of St. Joseph; Richard Rose, John W. Foreman, an Indian trader, of Doniphan; Willard P. Hall, afterward Governor of Missouri; Gen. George H. Hall, of St. Joseph; A. M. Mitchell, who laid out South St. Joseph in 1853; Reuben Middleton, a pioneer merchant of St. Joseph in 1842, one of the first men to build up the Salt Lake trade in 1849; R. H. Jenkins, a Kansas politician, who died in 1861; Fred W. Smith, pioneer of St. Joseph; W. S. Brewster, long since deceased.

On February 20, 1857, the territorial legislature of Kansas incorporated the St. Joseph & Topeka Railroad Company. The incorporators were mostly citizens of Kansas, and the city of St. Joseph voted aid to the company, and October 20, 1850, a contract was entered into between these two companies to own the right of way jointly for the railroad from Elwood or Roseport to Troy and use the same track. This road afterward changed its route and ran down the river from Wathena to Doniphan and thence to Atchison.

It was long since sold out at foreclosure and the right of way purchased by Jay Gould and sold to the Rock Island after the track had been removed and the iron sent west to lay switches, side tracks, etc., on the Grand Island.

But we will go back to the Marysville & Roseport company. Rose-

port, by the way, was one of the early day names for Elwood. The seventh section of the original act, approved February 17, 1857, gave the company the power to survey work, locate and construct a railroad from Marysville to Roseport in the territory of Kansas so as to connect with the St. Joseph & Hannibal Railroad Company, which traversed Missouri from St. Joseph to the Mississippi river.

Under the law of 1857 this company was organized on February 26, 1857, and directors were elected and \$100,000 in capital stock was subscribed.

In 1860 three miles of the track was laid and ties and iron laid to near Wathena, the company having an engine called the Mud Cat. At a meeting of the stockholders, held on April 17, 1862, the name was changed to the St. Joseph & Denver City Railroad Company.

Nothing was done until 1866, when a local company was formed under the general incorporation laws of Kansas known as the Northern Kansas Railroad & Telegraph Company. The incorporators were citizens of Kansas. It was framed under the belief that it could get aid from the State of Kansas and more favorable legislation than the old St. Joseph & Denver City railroad, on account of the connection of Gen. Jeff Thompson and other Southerners with that road in its earlier history, as well as to secure a grant of 125,000 acres of land from the State of Kansas, which it was feared could not be held by the St. Joseph & Denver City Railroad Company.

Articles of incorporation were signed on January 17, 1866, under the general railroad laws of 1865 of the State of Kansas, and were signed by Thomas A. Osborne, Frank Drenning, Sol Miller and C. E. Fox, of Doniphan county; Ira Lacock, Samuel Spear and C. E. Parker, of Brown county, and George Graham, of Nemaha county; E. C. Manning and J. B. Brumbaugh, of Marshall county, and Henry Hollenberg and E. Ballard, of Washington county, all of Kansas.

Samuel Lappin, of Seneca, was elected president, and a board of directors in May, 1866. The consolidation took place in October, 1866, the name of the St. Joseph & Denver City Railroad Company being retained.

In January, 1866, the work was commenced from Wathena west, and the following October the city of St. Joseph voted \$500,000 stock to the road. In 1869 the road was built to Troy and located to Hiawatha. Doniphan county voted bonds to aid its construction. The Kansas Legislature granted odd sections of land as far west as the 100th meridian for the benefit of the railroad. At that time the road was located only to Hanover. It is believed by many that if the road had been located up the Republican river toward Denver the company would have obtained over one and one-half million acres of land. By the location made, it received only 640,000 acres.

Construction was pushed westward through Nemaha county to Marysville in 1871. In 1879 Jay Gould bought a controlling interest, the

road having been completed to Hastings, Neb., 227 miles west of St. Joseph. In 1885 the road was reorganized and named the St. Joseph & Grand Island, the road having been completed to Grand Island with capital furnished by Jay Gould several years previously.

Nemaha county voted \$100,000 for the road, but escaped payment through a technicality.



## CHAPTER VIII.

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### SENECA, THE COUNTY SEAT.

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SELECTED FOR COUNTY SEAT—TOWN FOUNDED—FIRST HOUSE AND STORE  
—SECOND STRUCTURE—A LITERARY BLACKSMITH—HOTEL AND MILL  
—OTHER BUILDINGS AND EARLY DAY ENTERPRISES—BUSINESS BOOMS  
—GROWTH OF TOWN—ADVANTAGES OF SENECA—PROGRESS—BUSI-  
NESS ENTERPRISES AND PROFESSIONS—GUILFORD HOTEL—A COLONY  
COMES FROM ENGLAND—THEIR EARLY STRUGGLES—INTERESTING  
CITIZENS—JAKE COHEN—CIVIC IMPROVEMENT—COMMUNITY  
CHURCH—TABERNACLE—HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING—MUNICIPAL  
LIGHT AND WATERWORKS—CITY HALL.

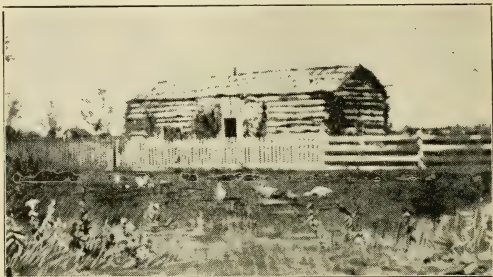
When Central City, Richmond and other aspirants to the throne lost definitely the county seat, they resignedly laid down their hands, while Seneca departed with the spoils. She has had little difficulty in retaining her seat since. Richmond was carried over the short distance and added to the population of Seneca in a body. Little by little the other small settlements thereabout drifted in and made themselves at home, on one or more of the town lots, every other one of which the Senecans had donated to the town company.

Seneca had been staked off and spoken for as a suitable town seat by J. B. Ingersoll in 1857. Mr. Ingersoll called his claim Castle Rock. He was not included in the original town company, however, which was composed of C. G. Scrafford, Royal Torrey, Samuel and Finley Lappin, who immediately changed the name to Seneca, whether for the Indians of that name or the great Roman statesman has never been divulged.

Seneca started out bravely with metropolitan ideas and hopes. The first house erected on the town site of Seneca was no modest log house of one room divided by a curtain, as is the usual pioneer dwelling. It was a double log house, built after what is now called the "Colonial plan" with a wide hall running through the center. Finley Lappin moved into one end of the house and reserved the other end, using it for a hotel. The other side of the "hall" was used for a grocery store. In addition the Lappin end was utilized by Samuel Lappin for an office when he was elected registrar of deeds. The house invariably served double purposes after its terms as hotel, grocery and office of registrar of deeds were served. It became a dwelling and a grocery shop; a car-

penter shop and had various uses until finally Mr. Lappin tore it down and erected a drug store.

The second structure on the town site of Seneca was as simple and picturesque as the first one was magnificent, even for those early times. It was a blacksmith shop erected on four poles and covered with a roof of brush. The glow of the forge at night beneath its quaint covering was a beckoning finger for the few pioneers to gather around for a visit, and plan for Seneca's future and Nemaha's great renown.



FIRST HOUSE BUILT IN SENECA, KANS.

The blacksmith, himself, was not less attractive than his shop. He could not only shoe horses and hang a wheel, but was a writer, who contributed tales of his western pioneer home, as glowing and brilliant as the fire in his forge. Levi Hensel was his name, and he became widely known as correspondent for the New York "Tribune." His daughter was the first child born in Seneca. She was given a town lot at her birth.

Then came to Seneca, residents who have done much for the fame, honor and riches of the town and the county. John E. Smith with his wife, sons, brother and sister, and accompanied by Charles, George W. and Eliza Williams, arrived in March, 1858, from Derry, N. H. Mr. Smith first built his house, which became known as Smith's Hotel. Moreover he brought from New England machinery for a mill. This was taken by train to St. Louis, brought as far as Atchison by steamer and overland by ox team from Atchison. The Smith Hotel served two purposes as well as the Lappin place, for it was utilized as Seneca's first school and Miss Addie Smith taught the first school there in 1858.

Buildings were becoming not so rare a luxury now, although there was some excitement when the first building of concrete stone was

erected, which later was torn down for a building of natural stone. Meantime, dwellings were going up, and within a couple of years the first court house was built and business affairs moved along as smoothly a town of more years.

Two hotels in a village of less than two hundred people may seem an unnecessary outlay, but it was not. Seneca was on the Denver Overland road and the hotels were kept busy. Immigration was immense at that time. Gold seekers still were going to California. Denver was a lure, Pike's Peak was as tempting as the golden rivers of California. The western lands of Kansas were advertised all over the east, with



MAIN STREET AND BUSINESS SECTION, SENECA, KANS.

maps of thriving cities, streams of smoke pouring from factory chimneys, and populous streets picturing an irresistible temptation. Running a hotel in those days was a real money making business. A dollar was charged for all meals, and it was not an unusual thing to have the tables crowded full meal after meal.

From six residents, when Seneca secured the county seat from its rivals, within six years it had grown to a population of 300; a transient population of twenty-five to thirty daily; two hotels, a grist mill, saw mill, school, jewelry store, hardware store, newspaper, several other business buildings, county buildings and dwellings. In the early eighties Seneca had 1,500 inhabitants, and now it has 2,000.

It seems rather a pity that Seneca has not become a real metropolis, for her streets are laid out with such generous width, that a cityful could be accommodated in them.

Why is it that a town laid out and planned with generosity in the matter of streets, remains of lesser proportions, while a city grows from a village that has crooked, crammed streets, and forefathers who do not appreciate the beauty of being generous in the first place, are followed by property owners who refuse to be generous when necessity finally comes?

At any rate, Seneca is to be congratulated on the breadth of her streets. In the past year the question of paving has arisen in the town. The proposition is to put a parking down the center of this beautiful main thoroughfare, and pave on either side.

Seneca's main street has other pleasing points to offer. It is blessed with quaint stone churches, covered with vines. It has not succumbed to modernity and destroyed the handiwork of generous forefathers at the instigation of fashionable offspring. It has retained its quiet, quaint dignity, and is unique in that. There are homes and delightful, secluded spots in Seneca that remind one of old New England homes occupied for 300 years by the descendants of one family. It is refreshing to come upon such a town in a State where most villages and cities are as painfully new as patent leather shoes always appear to be.

From this do not gather that Seneca is not progressive and moving right along in the direction of wealth and prosperity. Where thirty years ago there stood a dozen business houses and two small hotels, today there are:

Two newspapers, the "Tribune" and the "Courier-Democrat"

Frank Strathmann, photographer

Albert Koelzer, photographer

B. F. Townsend, blacksmith

A. H. Grollmes, blacksmith

John Quinlan, blacksmith

Ole Nelson, blacksmith

J. J. Buser, Buser Auto Co., garage, Maxwell, Hudson and Dodge

Highway Garage, C. C. Firstenberger, Buick and Ford

Bailie Keith, garage and repair shop

Earl Goodrich, Metz cars and garage

#### REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE.

W. F. Thompson

T. E. Rooney

Bert Woods

Abbie W. Kennard

Crandall & Bruner Realty Co.

## LAWYERS.

C. C. K. Scoville	Charles Schrempp
Ira Wells	Charles Herold
John Stowell	H. M. Baldwin
Emery & Emery	F. L. Geary

## DOCTORS.

H. G. Snyder	A. M. Brewer
U. G. Iles	C. E. Tolle
J. Rudbeck	

## DENTISTS.

J. J. Sullivan	Hurst Fitzgerald
F. W. Druin	H. F. Davis

## PREACHERS.

C. A. Richard, Community  
Rev. Guoin, Episcopal  
Irvin McMurray, Methodist Episcopal  
Christian Science  
Congregational  
Universalist  
Catholic, Father Joseph Sittenauer, O. S. B., pastor;  
Father Gabriel Vonderstein, assistant

## SENECA BUSINESS HOUSES.

Walter Sperling's Jewelry Store  
Seneca Shale and Brick Company plant  
Seneca Planing Mill  
Municipal Electric Light and Water Plant  
Seneca Ice and Pop Plant  
Gilford Hotel  
New Royal Theater  
Cameron House  
West End House  
Will Carey's Restaurant  
John Meinberg's Restaurant  
Peter Schmitt's Steam Bakery  
Otto Kelm's Home Bakery  
Wempe & Buening, Department Store  
Honeywell & Stein, "The Leader" Department Store  
K. J. Nash, Dry Goods and Merchandise

M. A. Reckow, Variety Store  
B. F. Staubus, Mammoth Racket Store  
August Kramer, Hardware  
Fuller & Son, Hardware  
A. L. L. Scoville, Hardware  
First National Bank and Seneca State Savings Bank, in one building  
under same directors  
National Bank of Seneca  
Citizens State Bank  
Ralph Johnson, Groceries  
E. R. Mathews, Groceries  
A. E. Levick, Groceries  
Thomas Routh, Exclusive Shoe Store  
Buehler Clothing Company, Men's Clothiers  
Firstenberger & Son, Men's Clothiers  
John L. Clark, Drug Store  
D. B. Harsh, Drug Store  
H. E. Jenkins, Drug Store  
August Haug, Butcher Shop  
L. P. Alexander, Butcher Shop  
Jenkins & Avery, Butcher Shop

Seneca, having a good start on hotels in the first place, has kept on in the right direction, and now one of the famous hostelries of north-eastern Kansas is the Gilford Hotel. In a town of 2,000 people, to be driven up to a hotel worthy of a town of 20,000 is something of itself. Then to be taken into a cool, spacious dining room, seated by a window at a table with white tablecloth and a bouquet of country flowers, looking out on a sloping green hill and blue sky, with no disreputable shacks or smoky chimneys interposing between your vision and the fair sight, is a delightful surprise.

The Gilford hotel was named in honor of its builders in a euphonious combination of their names: John A. Gilchrist and Charles G. Scrafford. Mr. Gilchrist was formerly interested in the Seneca State Bank, now the National Bank of Seneca. He lives now in El Paso, Texas, but has left behind him a monument of pride to the entire county. Mr. Scrafford was the pioneer merchant of Seneca. He built the first hotel in White Cloud and the first saw mill there. But White Cloud, with its Indian agency and increasing citizenship, was becoming too civilized and metropolitan for the adventurous and delightful Mr. Scrafford, so he sought new worlds to conquer and removed to Seneca, where he opened a general store in 1860. With ox teams he crossed the prairie between Missouri and Seneca to haul his goods and lumber for his building and stock. The stuff had to be ferried across the Missouri river, then loaded on the wagons, and across the open prairies the ox teams carried the goods, a trip that could not take less than four days with such a load,

longer than it takes now to go by rail to California. Mr. Scrafford was in business, both mercantile and banking, with Finley Lappin. He married Mr. Lappin's daughter, a brilliant, witty woman, whose wit has increased with her years. Mr. Scrafford was an early day town trustee, later was mayor, and altogether was one of the moving spirits of Seneca.

Seneca is the most cosmopolitan town in Nemaha county, in that many different countries are represented by her pioneer citizens. Mr. and Mrs. John W. Fuller celebrated on January 1, 1916, their sixtieth wedding anniversary, their wedding having occurred in Kent, England. The marriage occurred in the little parish church in the village of Ashford. Mr. Fuller has a fund of reminiscences of his native country and pioneer days in the land of his adoption.

Mr. Fuller accounts for immigration to Kansas from England in 1870 in telling of the meetings of workingmen held at 18 Denmark street, Soho, London, England. He says this was a great place for workingmen to congregate. They met and discussed the best way to mitigate the conditions of the English workingmen. Among them was John Radford, a big talker, quite a power in that way, but impractical. Jim and Charley Murray were other Englishmen who talked to the English workers. It was planned for a colony to settle near Goff, Kansas, and Edward Granger Smith was superintendent of the colonization plan. Those who migrated at that time were promised a fourteen-room house. When they reached Kansas nothing of the sort was to be found. Mr. Fuller was obliged to house, if it could be so called, his family, consisting of a wife and six children, in a frame room fourteen by ten feet, with a leaky roof over it.

There were seventeen in the party who came over from England with the Fuller family.

As for their exact location, Mr. Fuller says it was not named, but their destination was the forty-eighth mile post. Their particular section was 25, twenty miles and a half due north of this point, and divided into ten-acre tracts, which they expected to plant to wheat.

They reached this point in May. Edward Granger Smith, promoter and prime mover, accompanied them, but he died within a short time after their arrival. In recalling the incident, Mr. Fuller says that he made the coffin, and donning some Odd Fellows' regalia which he had brought from England, he repeated from memory the burial service of the English church. Later he performed the same services over the body of another pioneer named Dewey.

In telling of the first planting on their scant acreage, Mr. Fuller says he traded three hogs for enough wheat to plant his ten acres. It was spring wheat and this for fall planting, but it made a splendid crop, which he sold to Don Rising for \$1.10 a bushel.

Mr. Fuller also recalls that he bought a ten-acre plot with improvements from John Stowell, who was there a year earlier, paying about \$2 for all, land which now would doubtless bring \$200 an acre.

In August after these emigrants came, a preacher named Smith built a house, there, making it a sort of postoffice, with siding for a station.

They did anything for a livelihood. Installments were sent over from the workingmen in England. Mr. Fuller remembers going to Atchison to cash a check sent from there. He helped to build the railroad from Atchison to Waterville. He was put to sawing wood for the locomotive, probably because he was large and strong, and received \$2 a day for it.

Mrs. Fuller recalls planting ten acres to corn, using a hatchet to make the holes. It was, of course, sod corn, but it came up, making a fair yield. In the spring of 1871 they moved to Centralia, where there was a similar colony. The Mechanic's building in old Centralia is still standing.

The following year the John W. Fuller family moved to Seneca, locating where the business block of Lieutenant Governor Felt was later built. They made tin roofs or any kind of work they could get. At one time Mr. Fuller bound wheat for John Koelzer for \$2 a day and board. Having been brought up a mechanic, Mr. Fuller says this was the hardest work he ever did in his life.

On the trip of these emigrant English, from New York to Kansas, a stop was made at Elkhart, Ind. Mr. Fuller went into a shop there and asked for treacle, which is English for molasses. The store keeper was nonplused what to give the purchaser. A Kentish boy happened to enter the store during the discussion and explained that molasses was what was wanted. Thieves and sharks were all along the line to victimize the emigrants. In their stop in Chicago, while the family was housed for the night in a freight depot, the Kentish boy watched over them all night to protect them from these depredations.

Seneca has among her residents a famous Italian, Antonio Raffo, whose restaurant for many years was the goal of every epicure who was so fortunate as to have heard of him. Antonio Raffo ran a restaurant many, many years ago in Baltimore. He married an American woman named Katie Brooks. Together they ran the famous restaurant in Seneca, which, if conducted today, would make the town a goal for automobilists from all over this section of Kansas and the neighboring Nebraska. Katie Raffo died twenty-five years ago. Her husband seemed to have lost his zest at this greivous parting, and closed the restaurant. He was very devoted to her, and loves her as fondly today. Her grave is one of the most perfectly kept anywhere. Mr. Raffo is a veteran of two wars, and his back pension enabled him to retire comfortably. He owns two properties. His present home he keeps himself, and it is said that Antonio Raffo, veteran of the Crimean war and the Civil war, is the best housekeeper in Nemaha county.

Antonio Raffo's father was a soldier under Napoleon Bonaparte. Raffo was born in America, but his love for battle was inborn. When



the Crimean war broke out Raffo worked his way across the ocean to Italy on a merchant vessel and enlisted with the Zouaves. He was only nineteen years old, but distinguished himself in the famous war when England, Russia, Italy and France fought for the possession of Crimea.

A. Raffo is the second Nemaha county citizen who fought in the Crimean war and was present at the famous battle of Sebastopol. He tells, in his quaint pronunciations, of the dazzling feats of the Italian Zouaves who scaled walls and wrested guns from the slower Russians on the walls of the city. He was one of seventeen men to receive a Victorian cross for his conspicuous bravery in the attacks on Balaklava and Malkoff. At the close of the war he returned to America and opened his Baltimore restaurant. Here also he joined the Baltimore guards, who volunteered for service to capture John Brown at Harper's Ferry. Antonio Raffo was with the men who captured the famous John Brown, whose body may "hang on a sour apple tree, but whose soul still goes marching on."

Baltimore thugs and toughs also went along in the free train to assist in the capture. But finding that Brown and ten negroes were fortified in a metal engine house they disappeared. The Baltimore guards surrounded the engine house, and with timbers as battering rams crashed in the door. Brown's men then opened fire, concentrating it on one spot. Only four guards fell. The guards then entered and every man was killed except John Brown and one negro. The negro was felled by an officer and Raffo, because of his Crimean experience, banded his wounds. Then Brown was seen and recognized. "I guess he would have been killed right there if I had not protected him," said Raffo.

In 1861, because of his military experience, Raffo was employed as a drill master by the State of West Virginia. He then enlisted for service in Company C, Seventh regiment, West Virginia volunteers. Others in his regiment said that he was considered the handsomest man in the regiment and could have had any position, if he could have spoken English better.

Another Nemaha county resident who served in the war of the Crimea was John Williams, who had lived on his same farm for fifty years until his death in 1914. He was a sailor on a British man-of-war and saw service during the entire war. He saw the famous charge of "Six Hundred" at the battle of Balaklava. He was present at the taking of Odessa. Mr. Williams was born in Swansea, Wales, and came to Nemaha county two years after the close of the Crimean war.

A third Nemaha county man to distinguish himself in the Crimean war, for Great Britain, was Dr. W. F. Troughton, of Seneca. Dr. Troughton held the position of assistant surgeon in a royal artillery regiment at Gibraltar. He came to Nemaha county in 1865, the year he was graduated from the St. Thomas Medical College of London, where he studied under Dr. Skelton. He was a native of Westmorland.

England, and married Anne Daryes in England before coming to this country. He has been prominent in Seneca affairs for many years.

A rare citizen of Seneca, and, beyond any cavil, its most beloved, is Mrs. Emily Collins, who has taught the primary grade in Seneca schools for thirty-eight consecutive years. She is teaching the children of the children whom she had taught.

Before Seneca is laid aside for her smaller sisters' stories, a word should be said of Jake Cohen, of beloved memory, without which no history of Seneca would be complete. Mr. Cohen was a gentle Jew. He was elected mayor of the city with few dissenting votes in a town largely Catholic, and with the rest of the people Protestants, but broad and fine enough to recognize merit and admire quality in one of different belief. Mr. Cohen rescued Seneca from depression. He made the town physically and morally clean. He gave such an impetus to the upward that Seneca will never slip back to civic slothfulness again. And when Jake Cohen died several years afterward, every store in Seneca was closed, and every resident, children and all, went to his funeral, and we still mourn him.

Seneca had a revival during the reign of Mr. Cohen, which tore the town from cellar to dome. While it was a civic revival, it was none the less religious. The revival did as much practical good as ever a religious revival has done; perhaps more. Cleanliness is next to godliness, Seneca concluded. So Seneca cleaned up and a professional revivalist, who advanced civic improvement, was employed to engineer the job. He preached better streets, cleaner alleys, better lawns, painted houses and a more sightly town. He delivered lectures in the theater, went to the farmers on the streets and talked to them and stirred things up generally. The Seneca Commercial Club paid him, and he was worth all he received. There is a rich field for this kind of an evangelist. There should be a few of them living in each town. The Seneca papers were filled with the revival for weeks. The Seneca Civic Movement League edited the matter and wrote some pretty hot shots at people who did not clean up, and did not hesitate to mention their names. A report got out that a certain clerk in Seneca was taking orders for a mail order house. A committee waited on the clerk at once. The movement was the best thing that Seneca had done for years, and she is still feeling the effects of it. Seneca did not backslide on that revival.

The broadness which characterizes Seneca has been carried farther in recent years by the institution, maintenance and increasing popularity of the community church. Many small churches of small success and difficult work have gathered under the banner of brotherly love, kindness, honesty, fairness and good works with no further creed. Seneca, a small town of 2,000, has bravely faced the problem that larger cities realize is facing the church of today and has clung tenaciously to her belief that in union there is strength. The community religious movement began in 1914 with a series of six sermons delivered in Protestant

churches, culminating in an organization at the old stone church, March 9, 1915. It has been remarkably successful in bringing people out to church. In bitterly cold weather and excessively hot, people have gathered under the community banner. The members do not join, they simply go—Congregationalists, Universalists, Presbyterians, Christians, Episcopalians, Scientists and Methodists. The community church is not for the church work alone; it is supposed to reach every phase of civic life, and consequently everything in which any man is interested.

Then the Senecans combined and built a tabernacle, an open, screened building, the material and the work for which was largely donated and the money raised by giving a home talent chautauqua. Experienced builders supervised the work, G. A. Shaul and Roy Vorhees, whose work was also a gift to the cause. The services were originally for Sunday evening only, but the organization having been com-



COMMUNITY TABERNACLE, WHERE CREEDS AND DOGMAS ARE LAID ASIDE—ALL DENOMINATIONS WELCOMED.

pleted, services will be held twice on Sunday hereafter. In the winter a floor was put down, also a gift, and the tabernacle building is used in winter for basket ball, indoor base ball and similar entertainment. In the summer the chautauqua, public meetings, or any kind of wholesome entertainment is given free use of the community building. The girls are kept entertained afternoons in the community building by games, and the boys are entertained evenings, or both are entertained together. The home chautauqua has been organized into a permanent association, and the athletics into a managing concern called the Independent Athletic Association. The regular ball games are charging for admission

to pay for the lumber in the floor. The Congregational Church voted not to hire a pastor this year, but will try the community movement for six months. Rev. C. A. Richards has had charge of the community affairs since its organization; a splendid, indefatigable, courageous young man, who believes that religion is also to be found in one's work and one's play.

The Seneca High School is a building as handsome in appearance and surroundings as any city and many colleges could afford. It is a very beautiful building of pressed brick with cut stone trimming, and is located on handsome grounds, with all appliances in the play ground that may be found in a progressive city. Beginning with the first school taught in 1858, as mentioned, and coming down to R. G. Mueller, head of the school today, a witty man and a fine educator, Seneca schools have been invariably a matter of pride and congratulation to the town. There have been famous men in charge of school matters in Seneca. J. C. Hebbard was the first county superintendent of public instruction. Mr. Hebbard made the first county report during the days when Kansas was a territory, and Samuel W. Greer was the superintendent of the territory. Following Mr. Hebbard, a delightful, cultured man, who with his wife was a great assistance in the advance in culture of Nemaha county, was John W. Fuller. Mr. Fuller was the second superintendent of the county and for sixty years has kept up his personal interest in Seneca schools. It was he, who in 1907, insisted that the country schools should have manual training. He had been a member then of the Seneca School Board for the previous ten years. Mr. Fuller was the first director of manual training in Nemaha county schools when the pupils of Seneca schools made a bench under his gratuitous supervision. From then on Seneca's manual training department has been made increasingly important. Five sewing machines were installed shortly afterward. At the annual county fair in Seneca the most interesting section is the display of dresses, gowns and embroidery made by the Seneca children from the first grade to the senior year. The equipment in the boys' department was largely made by the pupils themselves. Mr. Fuller is an author of some note. His work on "The Art of Copper-smithing" is said to be the only treatise on the subject. Another book of Mr. Fuller's is "The Geometric Development of Round and Oval Cones." All of which sounds as if he were the proper man to have been the leading spirit in teaching a child the honor of working with his hands. For years Mr. Fuller made frequent talks to the Seneca school children, which did much to keep their enthusiasm aroused along practical educational lines. Seneca claims that its manual training department has been the most highly developed of any school its size in the State. The school children of Seneca have had for nearly forty years an invaluable start in their work. Mrs. Emily Collins has been the primary teacher during this entire period. For years she has been teaching the children of former pupils.

Seneca has a capably administered municipal light and waterworks system, which is being operated with such signal success that each year witnesses a surplus piling up in the city treasury over and above maintenance and operating expenses. The city water is obtained from a never failing source, natural springs eastward beyond the city limits, which are safeguarded for all time from pollution, and whose waters have been pronounced by the State chemistry department to be absolutely pure. During the past season (1916) the main thoroughfare of the city has been regraded and an experiment in oiling carried out which is proving to be an unqualified success.

In July of 1916 the citizens voted almost unanimously in favor of bonding the city for the erection of a new city hall and municipal building, to be erected at a cost of \$20,000. This building is being erected on city land on the corner diagonally across from the old stone church at the western end of the business section and the sale by the city and subsequent removal of smaller buildings took place recently to make room for the proposed building, which will house the city offices, the fire department, provide a rest room and assembly room for the people. The edifice is modern in every respect and will be a matter of pride to every Senecan when completed.

## CHAPTER IX.

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### SENECA SHALE BRICK INDUSTRY.

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AN AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY—THE ONE EXCEPTION—IMPORTANT INVENTION—THE "KLOSE CONTINUOUS TUNNEL KILN"—A VISIT TO THE SENECA SHALE BRICK COMPANY'S PLANT—INTERVIEW WITH MR. KLOSE—ORGANIZATION OF COMPANY—BEGINNING OF INDUSTRY—PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY—PRESENT CAPACITY—CAPITALIZATION.

The region in the vicinity of Seneca is essentially and purely an agricultural locality. In fact, the whole of Nemaha county is farm land. The traveler in passing through the county from the north to south or from east to west at any angle of the compass will observe nothing but a fertile landscape, dotted with farm houses, big red barns, herds of fat cattle, droves of fine horses, great fields of corn, alfalfa and wheat—with the blue sky overhead unmarred by a breath of smoke from factory chimneys. Instead of the hum of the "wheels of industry," the whirr of the reaper is heard in season, and during the harvest time the rattle and chug, chug of the thresher is likewise heard on the various farms. These will be the only evidences of industrial activity to be found or heard aside from the passing of the steam trains and a few necessary local manufacturing establishments.

The one exception to the fact that this county is the absolute domain of the farmer is found at Seneca and is the Seneca Brick Manufactory, a thriving industrial concern, which is one of the best managed and successful concerns of its kind in the West. This is what might be called an "infant industry" as yet, and has been in existence for the past ten years, its course of growth having been marked by various vicissitudes and "ups and downs," which have been apparently solved of late since the new and economical system of brick burning has been installed by the inventor and superintendent, K. W. Klose. This system is called the "Klose Continuous Tunnel Kiln," and has excited the attention and scientific comment from brick men in all parts of the New and the Old World.

"The Brick and Clay Record," a journal devoted to the brick manufacturing and clay products business, in its issue of December 1, 1912, has an appreciation and full comment to make regarding the Klose Continuous Kiln, in operation at the Seneca Shale Brick works, under the title,

"Makes a Continuous Kiln at Cost of \$3,000. Young Kansan May Revolutionize the Method of Burning Clay With Recent Invention—Simplicity and Efficiency Mark System, Which Include Drying and Conveying."

A conveying system that combines simplicity and service, or a drying method that is inexpensive and at the same time practical or a continuous tunnel kiln that is possible at one-tenth of the present cost of construction—either of these three goals would be considered sufficient unto itself by the progressive manufacturer. But group all three into one compact system, under one roof and not only reduce the cost of construction and operation, but increase efficiency and improve the product and you have an achievement few clay workers hope to realize.

Despite those who have declared it never would be, the goal has been reached, and like all milestones in the march of progress, "Necessity, the Mother of Invention," secures the credit.

The idealistic combination has gone beyond the experimental stage. It actually exists. For the past year a complete brick, tile and hollow block plant has been using it at Seneca, Kans., and, as the tidings spread the little town has been the mecca for doubting, yet interested, clay workers.

The first public announcement of the new system appeared in "Brick and Clay Record," September 15, 1912, and came from the inventor himself—K. W. Klose, a young German who has struggled in obscurity until now, but whose fame and name bid fair to be known wherever clay is utilized in a manufactured product.

Mr. Klose, like most geniuses, is a modest, retiring sort of a fellow, uncommunicative and slow to acknowledge that he has accomplished more than his fellow laborers. But he carries three diplomas to attest the claims of his friends and acquaintances that he is peculiarly well equipped for the important mission he undertook. One of these is from a government college in his native German province and the other is from a technical school not far from Berlin, and the other is from the school of experience, located in Germany, the home of the continuous kiln, and the United States.

The announcement that appeared in this journal last September was in keeping with the nature of the man and so modest that few realized its full value at first. But gradually it dawned upon many that somewhere out in Kansas, among the clay hills of the Missouri river valley, there was the beginning of a revolution in the clay manufacturing industry and for weeks the one hotel at Seneca has been taxed by an increasing patronage and the narrow little road that winds around the foothills to the north of the city has been the most trodden in that vicinity.

One of the most recent tourists was the writer, and like his fellow-travelers he left the train filled with doubt. Mr. Klose's claim was a broad one. Others have startled the world with exaggerated announcements. Others have made claims equally as broad and possibly more probable, but usually the results were the same—a bubble that exploded

or an air castle that never materialized when the searchlight of investigation was turned on.

Not so with Mr. Klose and his announcement. Five minutes in his plant are more than sufficient to convince any practical clay worker, however skeptical he may be, for simplicity is one of the strongest features of the Klose system, and even a novice may grasp the fullness of the idea with ease.

The first view of the Seneca Shale Brick Company's plant, where Mr. Klose operates his system, is disappointing to the visitor. Nestling in the foothills there is just an ordinary hollow block building of modest proportions. One, for some reason, expects to see something a "little different," but there it is, a modest structure that may house a bicycle repair shop instead of a new drying and burning system that has caused brickmakers to sit up and take notice. You enter the building and the first sweep of your eyes increases your disappointment.

For the whole length of the building there is only a paved floor, piles of green brick or hollow block on either side alone breaking the monotony. A second glance discloses an "I" beam running the full length and width of the structure and bearing an exelectric triplex hoist—about the only visible sign of modern efficiency.

Another hurried sweep of the eyes and in one corner of the long room the visitor sees a combination brick and tile machine of the American Clay Machinery Company's design busy turning out the product of the plant. Close to the cutter there is a double electric hoist, which conveys the green brick or block to the floor above.

You turn to your guide, Klose himself, and he meets your look of disappointment with a smile.

"Where's the kiln?" you ask.

"You're standing on it now," he replies quietly, and points to the floor beneath. For the first time you feel the warmth on the soles of your shoes and you make haste to leave the inch or so of loose clay that covers the brick pavement, cropping out here and there.

You are inclined to believe the young German is having some fun at your expense, but just then a fellow comes along with a small scoop, no larger than a housewife uses in her flour bin. He takes a small cap, which heretofore has not been observed, and you see him disclose an opening scarcely five inches across. He sprinkles in barely a quart of small screened coal. The cap goes back into place and the fellows sits on a small stool to one side and proceeds to enjoy his pipe. You watch him in amazement.

"Is he the kiln tender?" you manage to ask. Your guide nods assent. "And is that all the coal he puts in there?" Again there is a smiling nod in the affirmative. At regular intervals you observe the burner leave his seat, take up his tiny scoop and lifting the next cap, proceed to replenish the fire in the burning chamber below.

And then Mr. Klose consents to tell you about his kiln and when



he has explained its principle you look down at the "trench in the ground," as the visitor invariably calls it, and exclaim:

"How simple! Why didn't I think about it?"

And that one explanation conveys better than pages of type the secret of Mr. Klose's invention. The kiln is not so much more than a "hole in the ground," with four brick walls and its simplicity and design of construction destined to create a stir in the clay world just as soon as the clay worker learns about it.

Think of it! A continuous tunnel kiln with a capacity of 600,000 brick per month, that can be constructed for less than \$3,000, or one-tenth of the cost of the ordinary tunnel-kiln and yet better and more efficient.

But simplicity does not end with the kiln. Mr. Klose has carried the same idea, coupled with economy and efficiency, into his conveying system and drier, and your inspection of the entire plant is a revelation to you.

Briefly stated, the Klose system in operation in the Seneca plant takes into consideration these three main points:

First.—A conveying system that works almost automatically and which is part of the general scheme of saving time, labor and improving the efficiency. This is so constructed and located that a small boy can operate it.

Second.—A drying system which utilizes radiated heat from the kiln and which is so constructed as to form a compact unit with the whole.

Third.—A continuous, tunnel kiln which can be constructed at the minimum of expense and at the same time prove efficient and economical."—Extract from "Brick and Clay Record," issue of December 1, 1912.

Since the installation of the Klose system in the Seneca plant, Mr. Klose has installed fourteen systems identically the same in other plants throughout the country.

The Klose system has proven to be a wonderful economical success in the Seneca Shale Brick Company's plant and its operation under Mr. Klose's supervision and management has placed a struggling concern, which has been operating at a decided loss, on a practical paying basis.

The plant is now being operated at a profit to the stockholders and the men who pinned their faith on the ultimate success of the clay industry in Seneca are destined to receive substantial dividends on their investments which for a time had the appearance of being precarious and not productive if not in danger of actual loss.

The Seneca Shale Brick Company was launched entirely by local capitalists, who invested their money in the enterprise in the hope of doing something which would benefit their home city and give employment to labor at all times of the year. There is little market for labor in Seneca and the surrounding country, except on the farms, and the Sen-

eca Brick Company takes care of some eighteen or twenty men in this respect at the present time.

The company was organized in 1906 with a capital of \$10,000, and was composed of George A. Shaul, J. H. Cohen, George W. Williams, L. B. Keith, H. B. Nichols, August Kramer, Ira B. Dye, Dr. W. F. Drum, H. C. Settle, Mrs. C. G. Scrafford. They acquired or leased a tract of land upon which a bed of shale had been discovered near the surface that seemed to be apparently exhaustless and located on the John Fox farm one-half mile west of Seneca. This bed of shale also underlies the William land. Since excavating has been undertaken, it has been found that the depth of the shale is indeterminable and increases in quality with depth. A small vein of coal has also been uncovered and it is thought by people who have studied the formation that deeper excavations on the site of the bed already uncovered will reveal the presence of another vein of coal of greater thickness.

The brick industry had its beginning with a venture made by capitalists who drilled for oil in the northeastern part of Seneca. When the drill had reached a depth of 800 feet granite was struck and the drilling was stopped. The outfit was moved to the Smith farm west of the city and placed in operation. At a depth of sixty feet brick making shale was struck. After drilling another twenty feet the promoters decided that the shale underlies other lands in the vicinity, and the stratum was followed lower down the fall of the ground and outcroppings were observed in the vicinity of the present plant. George A. Shaul was watching the drilling operations and came to the conclusion that an extensive deposit of shale was to be found. Careful prospecting uncovered other and similar deposits, and the outcrop was found on the Williams property. At this time, Mr. Shaul was building the State Normal Library at Penn, Neb., and Ira B. Dye was operating a brick plant at this place. Mr. Shaul took a quantity of the shale to Mr. Dye's plant, and after a thorough test, it was ascertained that the shale was of excellent quality, which, upon burning, produced a fine building brick. He then organized the company of local men to undertake the manufacture of brick and tile.

As is usual in the launching of similar enterprises in a city like Seneca, there were many "doubting Thomases" who declared that the venture would be a failure. However, enough patriotic citizens were induced to put up the necessary capital, a plant installed and the actual manufacture of brick in Seneca was begun. The company installed the old style of kiln with its heavy fuel capacity and waste of heat which was so great that the venture could not be made a success, and for years, was a losing venture to the stockholders.

When the fortunes of the company were at their lowest ebb and it seemed that the enterprise was doomed to failure, Mr. Shaul, who was erecting a building at Lincoln, Neb., met K. W. Klose, a skilled clay worker, who had just returned from Seattle, where he had placed a

brick plant in operation only to have it destroyed by a landslide just after the plant had been placed in operation. Mr. Shaul induced Mr. Klose to come to Seneca, take an interest in the company and take charge of the plant. This was in 1911. Mr. Klose installed the continuous tunnel kiln, described so well in the "Brick and Clay Record," and the plant has since been enjoying an era of prosperity.

At the present time, (1916), the plant is turning out 20,000 brick per day, and it is probable that this output will be increased as patronage demands. Brick were furnished for the building of the new Hiawatha High School, erected in 1915, and the brick used in the Marysville, Kans., High School were also made in Seneca. Carloads of the factory product are shipped as far west as Colorado. The hollow tile product is supplied to a wide range of territory.

The present capitalization of the Seneca Shale Brick Company is \$15,000. The officers and stockholders of the corporation are: George W. Williams, president; George A. Shaul, vice president; L. B. Keith, secretary; Edwin Cohen of Spokane, Wash., and K. W. Klose, manager.

## CHAPTER X.

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### SABETHA.

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UNLIKE OTHER TOWNS—NAME—SABETHA EXCELS—A HEALTHFUL CLIMATE—MODEL TOWN—PROSPEROUS CITIZENS—FARM PRODUCTS SHIPPED—PROMINENT MEN—AN INCIDENT OF HONOR—SABETHA PEOPLE EVERYWHERE—HOW NAMED—TOWN LOCATED—TOWN COMPANY ORGANIZED—ORGANIZATION—THE LIBRARY—A RARE HOST—INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESS HOUSES—ALBANY, THE MOTHER OF SABETHA—REMINISCENCES OF THE LATE J. T. BRADY.

Sabetha, the unique! Few things in Sabetha are like any other country town, and in those few things Sabetha excels. There is only one town in the world with a name similar to Sabetha, and that town is located in a remote section of Africa where the cannibals occasionally appear and use the population to make material for the barbecue on picnic dates. Sabetha is different even from this far-off African namesake in that we furnish the picnics for the outlying country instead of being served for the barbecue.

Sabetha was named by a very pious Biblical student, who started across the plains to California to seek gold; whose oxen died near here on a Sunday, and who, performing the last sad rites over the grave, named the spot Sabetha as a euphonic substitute for the Hebrew word, "Sabbaton," which signifies Sunday. The fact that the Biblical student retrieved his fortune, and was able to buy other oxen, by selling what liquor he had in store, is nothing against the present town, as there is not a liquor license in the place. Not one of the Sabetha drug stores has a liquor license, and no liquor has been sold in the town for over ten years.

This is a very rich agricultural region, and there is health in the air and wealth in the products of the ground. Everything appears here in exaggerated form. This section holds the record for the biggest yield of wheat and corn, and Mrs. Annie Redline, a native of this city, now deceased, measured seven feet and eleven inches waist measurement and weighed 611 pounds. Being four feet and eight inches in height, she was broader than she was tall, contrasting with George Hook, Will Alderfer and many other residents who are nearly seven feet tall and not so wide. Mrs. Redline was acknowledged the heaviest woman in the world.

This is a good locality for sick people also. F. A. Gue came here many years ago, completely helpless. He took treatment at Sycamore springs and cured one side, and then took treatment at Sun springs, a few miles away, and cured the other side, and he is today a hearty and vigorous man. Even the waters gush up wonders from the bowels of the earth around Sabetha.

J. P. Matthews is acknowledged by rural mail route inspectors as maintaining the most perfect rural mail route schedule in the United States. For years he has delivered mail on his rural route No. 1 out of Sabetha on a schedule that has not varied five minutes a day for each box, except on very rare instances, ranking with any railroad schedule in the country.



BUSINESS SECTION, SABETHA, KANS. SABETHA IS A MODERN CITY, WITH PAVED STREETS, BRILLIANTLY LIGHTED.

Sabetha has eighteen and one-half miles of artificial stone sidewalks, between sixty and seventy miles of dragged roads, paved streets, municipal power, heat and light, a white way, the most beautifully kept homes and lawns in the State, and a boy prodigy who speaks eleven different kinds of hog latin. Sabetha has no pig tail alley population, maintain only sixteen talking machines and never permits any public speaking at its celebrations. The band boys never practice after 9 o'clock at night. Forty new homes were built here last year and this. Seven new business buildings have gone up within a year, the last.

which is of pressed brick, being perhaps the finest structure in any country town in northeastern Kansas. The building contains the coat of arms of Roy Hesseltine, the builder, including the shield carved in stone.

Sabetha holds the record for viewing crops with alarm oftener than any other town in the United States, although the products are greater to the acre than any other spot of similar size in the country. The record in question is the natural outcome of the fact that farm land here is worth around \$150 an acre; and a farmer, in order to realize twenty-five per cent. on his investment of a quarter section, and pay himself a salary of \$1,000 or \$1,500 a year, is easily excited lest his income be cut down by short yields. Two rural families moved down to Abilene last fall and lifted in deposits over \$100,000 out of the local banks.

Here is a carefully compiled record of products of this immediate vicinity, shipped out of Sabetha in 1906, to say nothing of what we ate and have left:

Hogs .....	\$ 200,000
Cattle .....	220,000
Poultry .....	165,000
Eggs .....	125,000
Butter .....	115,000
Horses .....	150,000
Seeds .....	77,000
Hides .....	5,000
Wheat .....	55,500
Corn .....	35,000
Cream .....	35,000
Apples .....	11,000
Flour .....	10,000
Hay .....	3,000
Total .....	\$1,206,500

Among the other products of Sabetha we mention, incidentally, the following: Edwin Slosson, editor of the conservative old New York "Independent" magazine; Dr. Orville Brown, who is curing consumption, as chief physician of the new Missouri State Sanitarium at Mt. Vernon in the Ozark mountains, established by the State of Missouri; A. G. Lohman, who has revolutionized the treatment of so-called incorrigible boys by the method he has inaugurated in the Cleveland boys' home, maintained by the city of Cleveland through Tom Johnson, the reform mayor; Fred Gates, the famous financier of 26 Broadway, New York, and distributor of all John D. Rockefeller's charities and one of the prime movers in the founding of the University of Chicago; W. A. Quayle, the Kansas City divine and writer; Charley Clarkson, head of

Armour's credit system, and Rev. Jud Miner, who can sing "Lead Kindly Light" so much better than Tom Anderson of Topeka can sing "Old Shady," that he can put Anderson down and out and sit on him.

Sabetha is a town of a very high honor. In the nineties one of the Bell Telephone Company's representatives spoke discourteously to a committee representing the town. Instantly every telephone in the city was ordered out by the indignant subscribers. The Bell's plant was paralyzed for sixteen days, and not a telephone was used. One of the head officers of the company was sent to Sabetha. He humbly apologized in the name of the company, and George Washington Hook, the town operator, made a brilliant speech of acceptance, and all the telephones were put back into use again.

"Sabetha people are all over the world and either themselves or their blood relatives are into everything. No difference what happens in the world, either some Sabetha person or a relative of a Sabethan, is in it. Sabetha is even related to the nobility. Sabetha was in the San Francisco earthquake strong; it figured on the Thaw jury; it cut ice in the Russian-Japanese war; it is in the army and navy, and it touches at nearly every port in the world. Therefore it is impossible for anything to happen on the earth without Sabetha being in it; and if anything happens on the heavenly planets, a Sabetha woman is married to and is the assistant of Prof. William Joseph Hussey, the noted astronomer at the Michigan State University at Ann Arbor, and she will be in on the ground floor.

If anything has been left unsaid in this modest epistle, it is not because Sabetha is not in it, but because of the Czar-like restrictions of this contest, under which Sabetha chafes, and as a result of which she hereby offers nineteen additional columns which must be left unsaid."—From a Kansas town contest in the Topeka "Capital" in 1906. The following story of Sabetha upholds the foregoing claims:

The naming of Sabetha, the sister town of Seneca, with whose population Sabetha keeps pace always and occasionally a little ahead, will always bring on a controversy. The best story and the one that sounds most logical is this. Sabetha has the distinction of being the only town of the world so named. In the Holy Land is a town called Sabbaton, meaning, as Sabetha does, "Sabbath." This coincidence leads many to think that Sabetha's name came to it as follows. At any rate, it is an amusing and interesting tale, and as historical as any other. Early in the fifties, a tall, slim, wrinkled man of middle age, a bachelor, came to the vicinity of Sabetha on his way to California. The bachelor had had a dream of a wonderful gold mine in California, and was trying to make the trip to find it, alone. He had an elaborate map, showing the location of the gold and the topography of the country surrounding.

When he had traveled with his ox team from St. Joseph to near the present site of Sabetha, the traveler met with misfortune. One of his oxen died. This fateful incident led to the naming of Sabetha. The

man was a Greek scholar and well versed in mythical lore; also a student of the Bible. His oxen were named Hercules and Pelleas. Pelleas passed away on Sunday, and the bachelor was obliged to remain here. He pitched his tent and dug a well. The well he named Sabbaton, the Greek word for Sabbath, in honor of the day.

The traveler had two gallons of whiskey which he peddled to the few settlers and passersby. When the whiskey was gone, he went to St. Joseph and procured more, becoming a full fledged bartender. People came in to drink at the Sabetha well, as well as at the traveler's bar. The well water was exceptionally fine, and the Sabetha well became known from St. Joseph to California, as it was on the direct route of travelers to the golden State.

The traveler, having partly realized on his dreams of wealth through his golden liquor trade, returned to his home in the East.

Captain Williams came afterward and located on the present town-site of Sabetha. The well was so famous that many people traveled long distances to drink of its waters. The same waters are now the Sycamore springs, widely known for their medicinal value. Captain Williams is said to have closed the original well and started a well on his own property five miles southwest, calling it Sabetha.

When the St. Joseph and Grand Island railroad was built into this territory, it was decided to build a town. Fred Ukeley, now a wealthy retired farmer of Sabetha, heard of the scheme and rode all night, telling the settlers of the Sabetha well on Captain William's land, where the town should be located. The next day J. T. Brady, T. B. Collins, Ira Collins and Archibald Moorhead bought the Williams quarter section, including the Sabetha well, for \$7,000, and organized a town company.

But it was four years after its actual foundation, according to law, that Sabetha had a real city government apart from the township. In 1874, an election was ordered for August 15. Six hundred citizens had petitioned Judge Hubbard, of Atchison, in which the Nemaha county judicial district was then included, for a city corporation. A city of the third class was then ordered, and the election of officers resulted in Ira F. Collins being the first mayor; A. E. Cook, police judge; M. E. Mather, Isaac Sweetland, John Muxworthy, J. T. Brady and G. H. Adams, members of the council. For most part these men have remained with Sabetha, and always interested in the welfare of the town. Mr. Collins is still a resident of the town. J. T. Brady, who helped build another town, Pomona, in California, remained faithful to Sabetha to the day of his death, in the summer of the year 1914. Mr. Sweetland's children and grandchildren are still Sabetha citizens. Mr. Adams' children own Sabetha property today. Mr. Muxworthy's children, wherever they live, call Sabetha, home.

The arts and literature have always been second nature to Sabetha. In 1871, before the village had a city government, a library organization was formed so early as 1871, years before Sabetha was incorporated as



a town under the State laws. The library consisted of but twenty books as a nucleus, donated by residents and passed from hand to hand. S. W. Brooke was first president, and Emma Brady, now Mrs. Judge Gundy, of Long Beach, Cal., was secretary. This library continued until 1871 with its only income being fines and yearly fees. The library was then incorporated under the State laws with a capital stock of \$1,000, divided into ten shares. This library thrived for years in C. L. Sherwood's drug store, finally it simply melted away, and, for several years, Sabetha was without a public library, the need of new books being supplied by various book clubs, which purchased the new novels of the day, which were privately circulated. Among Sabetha's rare citizens in the early twentieth century was Mrs. Mary Cotton, president of the Citizens State Bank. Her private library was one of the finest in the State of Kansas, comprising 1,500 books, largely in fine bindings and rare, or limited, editions. Upon her death in 1912, she willed this great collection of books to the city for library purposes to circulate free, with her home to be used as a library or to be sold for a building and a library built. The home was sold, but the citizens still await the erection of the library building, the town being divided as whether to place the library in the park, opposite Mrs. Cotton's home, or wait until the money accumulates sufficient interest to both buy suitable ground, and erect a building handsome enough for the most beautiful collection of circulating books in a free public library in Kansas.

Sabetha, while not attaining Seneca's fame in hotels, has had, at least, one rare host as master of the inn. Captain Hook for years ran the Hook House of Sabetha. He was a retired sea captain, and his stories and yarns of the sea captivated all the traveling public, who patronized him, as well as his own sons. Edwin Miller, who built the Albany Hotel, moved it to Sabetha in 1870, and in 1871, the Sabetha town company erected a three story hotel called the Sabetha House. It stood until the present year when it was pulled down to make place for a modern business block erected by a citizen, and occupied as a department store.

The flouring mill industry thrived in Sabetha from the erection of the first mill in 1872 by L. J. Sprinkle until the destruction by fire of the Sabetha flouring mill about ten years ago.

Sabetha's business houses run into the second hundred, and other towns of the county can scarcely lay claim to Sabetha's trade. Every store building is modern, with window displays planned and arranged for most part, by men who have made a study of the art of window decoration. If a stranger should raise his eyes no higher than the first story and not look for sky scrapers, viewing Sabetha's windows, he would think himself in a modern city fifty times the size of Sabetha.

## ALBANY, THE MOTHER OF SABETHA.

"Elihu, why did you bring me and my daughters to this dreadful country?" cried Mrs. Elihu Whittenhall, shivering as the wind, too, shivered and whistled around the log cabin, high on the Albany hill, and trembling at the stealthy patter of the wolves' feet on the roof above her.

"We will make money here, my dear," answered her husband, his eye on the vision of the country as it is now, sixty years later. "It will be a wonderful land."

But with four little daughters, cuddled close to her, thousands of miles from the New York home, on the desolate, windswept prairie, no vision came to Mrs. Whittenhall.

Still her husband's vision was realized, although neither she nor he lived to see its full realization. Mrs. Whittenhall was college bred, carefully nurtured, tenderly reared, in a New York home. She graduated from the Oxford New York Academy in the class with Governor Seymour, of New York, and other distinguished men. Away all this, overland, by train, steamboat, and mule team, bringing with her the only piano in the State of Kansas, and four little daughters, is it any wonder she trembled at wolves, who made themselves as much at home as pet dogs; shivered at weeping prairie winds, and shrank from stray Indians, who walked into her house and took anything which caught their vagrant, childish fancy?

To the high hills of Albany, they came in 1857 and located their farms. Any of the magnificent land which their fancy chose, could be had for the simple act of sleeping and eating on the ground desired and the payment of \$2.50. But before long, within the following year, other New Yorkers came out. Other frail, delicate, courageous women risked comforts, quiet, calm and peace to break the prairie and pioneer with their husbands. Edwin Miller, accompanied by Mrs. Miller, W. B. Slosson, John L. and William Graham came out to Kansas; and Albany, the mother of Sabetha, was colonized and named in compliment to the capital of their native State. Mr. Miller built a hotel, and then Mr. Whittenhall built a frame dwelling, and the family removed from the confined quarters of the log house, almost filled by the big square piano, so bravely standing for the refinement and elegance of its former surroundings in its New York home. The Whittenhall house was built of walnut lumber, big timbers and all, a real treasure in these days when Kansas black walnut is so valuable, and for which European aristocracy pays a big price.

Mrs. Whittenhall lived several, happy, contented years on their farm at Albany, but she died before Albany was moved to Sabetha and never dreamed that her husband would own almost half the town, which was eventually electric lighted, heated by municipal steam, governed by commissioners, and with all the intermediary improvements

of the modern city. Her daughter, Mrs. Oscar Marbourg, says now: "If mother could only have seen these electric lights!"

Albany was the home of more men and women of culture, brains and foresight, than is usually found gathered together in so small a community. A residence and hotel were followed by the erection of a schoolhouse. A postoffice was established in 1859 and a store erected in 1860. Meantime the population had been increased by George Graham, Archibald Webb, Mose Stevens, J. P. Shumway, the postmaster, Mr. and Mrs. John Van Tuyl, B. H. Job, Mrs. Rising, Mrs. Archer, Thomas Robbins. Those who had not wives went back home and got them, and in most cases, "back home" was New York State.

A notable marriage, with the consequence of many members of a fine family migrating to Kansas, was W. B. Slosson's to Miss Achsah Lilly, of Castle Creek, N. Y. In 1860 he went back for his bride and brought her to Nemaha county, Albany colony. In their wake shortly followed the following relations: The Brigham family, the Emery, and Alice West Lilly, Rev. A. H. Lilly, Foster Lilly, Mrs. Charles Sherwood, Henry Lilly and Mrs. Hutchinson, George H. Adams, for whom Adams township is named, and his son; George F. Pugsley and family, Harvey M. Campbell, Lyman B. Lilly, Mrs. William Graham and the Hall boys; Albert West and sons, Myron and Nathan, and daughters; Mrs. Rellis and Mrs. Benson, John Tyler and family, and John and Merritt McNary, and others less directly connected, and still others, whom Mrs. Slosson, who wrote this list, could not recall. All of the families are connected, and many of them moved soon to Albany, and others to Sabetha or to the farmlands surrounding Albany and Sabetha. Most of them came from Castle Creek, N. Y., and all of them have been a credit to both homes, and the life blood of the new, struggling community.

When probably the first party of pioneers came up the Missouri river on the steamboat with the Graham brothers, Slosson and Miller, the trip required five days from St. Louis to Kansas City. The latter was a mere landing at that time. There were fifty men on the boat, and there was a gambling game on in every available spot. William Graham offered to make a bet that a man could not pick out a certain card. Upon the man's taking him up, the rest of the party said Graham sidestepped the issue and said, "I'm too nice a man to bet." The alleged reply became a nick name which followed Mr. Graham all through his fine service during the Civil war.

On the boat were five men who invited the boatload to settle on the river point where Kansas City now stands. Here was another man with real vision. He said this would be the spot for the big city of the West. There was not a habitation in sight, so the boat moved on, and the load went on up the river to scatter in various directions. But the five men stayed with the settlement. Twenty-five years later, Mr. Slosson met one of the five men who stayed and who had become a millionaire by staying. On the boat trip a daughter was born to one of the women pioneers, and a collection was taken to give the mother.

The party traveled overland across the California trail. On the overland trail, about ten miles from Albany, they passed a young man wearing a pair of overalls, checkered shirt, shoes and no socks, working in a sawmill, who directed them to Pony creek. The young man was E. N. Morrill, who became governor of Kansas, several years later.

That the young pioneers were not born farmers may be shown in the following, amusing anecdote told by Mr. Slosson. They passed a man, who asked them, if they had seen a stray filly. One young man replied, "I don't know what a filly is." Edwin Miller spoke up, not wanting the man to think they were tenderfeet, and said to the first speaker, "You darned fool—a filly is a nigger wench."

The men got on to Albany, and the settlement, at their arrival, had a population of forty-six people. A Congregational church was formed with Rev. Parker as preacher, who later became editor of the Manhattan Kansas "Telephone," a paper which long since has passed on. A school house was built of gray limestone in 1860, the school district building the first story, and the Congregational society, the second story. The school house is in use today, and has been every year since 1860, the upper story being used for neighborhood entertainments.

In 1870 the railroad went to Sabetha, not being able to make feasible grades by way of Albany. So most of Albany moved to the railroad, and became identified with Sabetha and included in her upbuilding and progress. Sabetha, though, is the offspring of Albany, and the history of the two towns is so interwoven the two towns seem as one. Albany was settled in 1857 by a party of educated, refined men and women from New York, who, for the most part, removed to Sabetha, houses, household goods and all, with the coming of the railroad.

In 1858, Capt. A. W. Williams, another New Yorker, whose native city was Rochester, opened a postoffice, and for the first time the settlers were able to get their mail nearer than St. Joseph, sixty-five miles away. Between the birth of Sabetha and the discovery of the famous spring by the California traveler, Jim Lane (General James Lane) had established a fort two miles east, which also bore the name Sabetha. Captain Williams became the first justice of the peace of Sabetha, as well as the first postmaster. During the Pike's Peak rush for gold in fifty-eight and fifty-nine, Captain Williams claimed his sales at the postoffice store averaged \$200 a day. This first store building erected by Captain Williams was burned and another erected in its place. The store was closed in 1861, when its proprietor joined the Union army. John L. Goodpasture, the only man left in Sabetha at the time, opened another store shortly after this. This was the beginning of the mercantile trade in Sabetha, which is conceded the biggest in Nemaha county today.

In 1859, a Methodist circuit rider, by the name of Rawlins, came down the California trail through the tiny Sabetha settlement and held the first religious service of the town in the Williams store.

Fanny Gertrude Whittenhall, one of the four little girls who came from New York and huddled to her mother's skirts on the wind blown hills of Albany, was the first bride. She was married to W. G. Sargent December 27, 1859. It was she who taught the slave girl to read, and her daughter, Mrs. Roscoe Hughes, and her grandchildren are living in Sabetha now, the fairest monument to a lovely and lovable mother.

In 1860, Miss Rebecca Hawkins opened a school in the hotel erected by Goodpasture, the second storekeeper of Sabetha. Miss Hawkins later became Mrs. C. P. Brannigan. Noble H. Rising kept this hotel for some time. Miss Hawkins started with five children in her school, which gradually attained an attendance of eighteen.

Captain Williams, James Oldfield and Isaac Sweetland became the first town company under a special act of the legislature, but no advantage was taken of the act for over ten years.

It was then that William B. Slosson, J. T. Brady, T. B. Collins, Arch Moorehead and three Missouri men, E. P. Gray, Ben Childs and Jeff Chandler, were given an incorporation charter, and real Sabetha was founded. These men were liable to A. W. Williams, who still owned the townsite, in the sum of \$4,000. For ten years, the war interfering with its growth, Sabetha consisted of but three stores and a blacksmith shop. But, in the seventies, things began to move and have been moving faithfully and unflinching ever since. This—with the coming of the railroad.

A drug store was opened by T. K. Masheter and E. B. Gebhart, which, after various changes, came into the sole possession of Mr. Masheter in 1879. Mr. Masheter has a host of interesting reminiscences of the early days. He recalls the arrival of the first safe in Sabetha, which was as big an event as the arrival of the first locomotive. He is authority on the orchards, and the court of last resort in early day event arguments.

T. K. Masheter celebrated his forty-sixth year in Sabetha. On April 2, forty-six years ago he arrived from Iowa. Just note the method he employed to get to Sabetha. He had to ferry across the Missouri river. The Grand Island ran only to Hiawatha. Of course the Rock Island was not thought of then. From Hiawatha Mr. Masheter came to Sabetha in a wagon. The survey for the Grand Island to Sabetha was made six weeks later. When Mr. Masheter arrived in Sabetha, Captain Williams had a hotel and big stone barn in the east part of town. A school house had been erected where Mr. Sam Kreitzer's house now stands. East of this was a blacksmith shop. John C. Perry, the postmaster, was located on the site of M. J. Beegley's house. There was a row of trees up our present Main street, and one of them stood until a few years ago. On the present location of Kreitzer's bakery there was a big straw stack. Covered wagons passed in flocks, like geese and ducks do now. They were going in every direction. Sabetha was a farm, only forty-six years ago.

The Sabetha of today contrasts strangely with the Sabetha, as it was first remembered by T. K. Masheter in the seventies. Mr. Masheter remembers most of Sabetha as Captain Williams' corn field. A hay stack stood where the Kreitzer Brothers' bakery is now located.

What an evolution! The Sabetha of today is approaching the dream of the idealist. The town has municipal steam, municipal power, municipal heat, municipal lights, municipal water works; Sabetha has paved streets, sewers, a hospital that cost \$100,000. The city has the commission form of government, which is doing much to beautify and improve the town.

"The best town on the Grand Island railroad," is a remark frequently heard among traveling men. Sabetha is simply a metropolitan little city. Exclusive dry goods stores, hardware stores, clothing stores, shoe stores, millinery stores, drug stores, implement stores and other lines of business are splendidly represented in Sabetha. The town draws trade from a wide territory.

Sabetha's white houses and clean streets have attracted attention to the place as a spotless town. The people are generally well-to-do, and the whole of the city can be called "the nice part of town."

#### REMINISCENCES OF THE LATE J. T. BRADY.

About the seventeenth day of April, 1859, I left the little town of Virginia, Ill., where I was reared. My companions were two other young men about my own age—Joseph Pothicury and William H. Collins, (whose sister I married some years later). We had a covered wagon and three yoke of oxen. Of course, our good mothers had fixed us out with the necessary clothing, pans and kettles, pins, needles and thread, and plenty of their good home cooking.

Our prospective destination was Pike's Peak, and at Beardstorm, Ill., fifteen miles from home, we met the balance of our party—twenty-three people and four wagons, with three yoke of oxen to each wagon. Without any special adventures, we traveled from there to Hiawatha, Kans. There we met a party of about a dozen men, returning from Pike's Peak. One of the men I had known from boyhood. He gave us a woeful account of the hardships to be endured, and no gold to be found. We went on from Hiawatha to Walnut creek and camped. That night we had a council of all present, and as a result, sixteen of our party turned their faces homeward next day.

Ten of us went on to Sabetha. One of the ten men is now an esteemed resident of Sabetha, John L. Mowder. Three others, one a brother of Mowder, one named Lewis and one Cenover. All took claims just west of Sabetha, as did John Mowder. Right here I must tell a story: They built a little one room shanty on John Mowder's place. He ate his breakfast in it, then we three Virginian boys hitched our oxen to it and hauled it over to another claim, and that man ate his

breakfast in it, and so we kept on until all four had eaten a breakfast in the shack on his own claim. Then they all struck out on foot for Kickapoo, where they proved up, each one testifying there was a shanty on his claim when he left. (Each one left as soon as he ate his breakfast). That was the way most of the proving up was done in those pioneer days in Kansas.

We landed in Sabetha on May 26, 1859. Three miles north of Sabetha lived two men we knew, also from Virginia, Ill., B. H. Job, and his brother, Thomas. We three boys had just three dollars in cash, and one wagon and oxen, so we decided to cast our lot in the vicinity of Mr. Job, whose wife was a fine character, and once in awhile, we could visit the family, and get a taste of good home cooking and talk of our far away homes. Times were hard indeed, and for the first two years we never saw a dollar. Posts, corn, pumpkins, flour, wheat and other things were the only currency, and the "home" folks sent us postage stamps so we could answer their letters.

The second Sunday we were in Sabetha we took a load of men, women and children over to church in Albany with one ox team. Mr. Archibald Moorehead owned the only two spans of horses in the whole country.

On July 4 of that year, two loads of people in ox wagons went from Albany to Padonia to celebrate. There were only two houses between Sabetha and Hiawatha. One was Mr. Joss', the other, Mr. Hatfield's. There were only three families in Sabetha in 1859, that of Capt. A. W. Williams, Mr. Risen and Mr. Oldfields. Williams had a general merchandise store and was postmaster. Mr. Risen kept a grocery store. Captain Williams and Mr. Oldfield each filed on 160 acres in 1856, Captain Williams taking the west 160, which he filed as a townsite naming it Sabetha. But no town appeared on the scene. In 1862 Williams lost the postoffice at Sabetha, and it was given to W. B. Slosson, of Albany. In 1861, I enlisted in Company A, Seventh Kansas cavalry. After serving three years, I was discharged and then went to Pawnee county, Nebraska, where, for three years, I was a partner with Governor Butler in the cattle business. After selling out I returned to Kansas and went into business with T. B. Collins and made my home in his family until my marriage to his sister, December 22, 1870.

In the spring of 1870, the Grand Island railroad was building west from St. Joseph, Mo. Archibald Moorehead was one of Nemaha's county commissioners, and the county had voted \$125,000 bonds to the new railroad. Slosson brothers, Moorehead, Brady and Collins worked hard to get the railroad into Albany, but when surveyed, the officials thought it too expensive a route to be practical. There was bitter rivalry between the towns of Albany and Sabetha. When the railroad people decided they would not build to Albany, W. B. Slosson went east of Albany and contracted for eighty acres in Brown county (where Hiram Fulton settled later.) Then he went to St. Joseph and planned with

the railroad officials to build a depot on the eighty acres, and call it Georgetown, for George Hall, president of the road. He also had posts brought from the nearby timber to help build the depot, before any one else knew of the scheme, as that region was then one vast prairie. Later the officials saw that Mr. Moorhead as county commissioner would never consent to issue the bonds that had been voted if the town was located in Brown county, and so they voted Sabetha the depot.

We went home to Sabetha and formed what is known as "The Sabetha Town Company," each member being a director. We bought the original townsite of 160 acres from Captain Williams for \$7,000.

As I remember it, the "town company" consisted of nine men, but I can only recall six besides myself: Colonel Harbine, Dr. McNeil, and George Hall, all of St. Joseph, and directors in the Grand Island road, W. B. Slosson, Elihu Whittenhall and T. B. Collins.

J. T. Brady was chosen president, Whittenhall secretary and W. B. Slosson, treasurer, and these officials constituted the executive board, and were authorized to plat the land and sell the lots as in their judgment seemed best. I cannot say who made the suggestion regarding the block for a city park, but it met with hearty approval of all the board, and the three officers were equally deserving of honor in connection with it.

Lots were also given to the Methodist, Congregationalist and Baptist churches.

In losing out on the townsite, the town company left one share (\$1,000) for Mr. Slosson, provided he wanted it. At first he refused it, but after a few weeks, he took it, put up a building and moved his store to Sabetha, and from that time on, was a staunch and loyal friend of Sabetha.

Mr. Sam Slosson was the first station agent on the Grand Island railroad at Hamlin, and when the road reached Sabetha, he was transferred there, and for some years, was the efficient agent.

Brady and Collins formed a company called "Collins & Company," consisting of four men, T. B. and Ira F. Collins, W. I. Robbins and J. T. Brady. They put up the first store building in Sabetha in the fall of 1870, and opened up a general merchandise store, selling everything from a cambric needle to a threshing machine, and shipping grain, cattle and hogs.

They ran the store one year and the books showed they sold \$127,000 worth of goods, and all the loss was less than \$300, although most everyone who asked for credit got it. They sold goods to people as far north as Dawson, Neb., and west to Fries' mills and Turkey creek and south to Granada.

Mr. Hook put up his hotel that fall, and it was the first building completed in the new town of Sabetha. Black & Marbourg opened up their lumber yard in September, 1870. A Mr. Gebhart built a small building, consisting of a story and a half about where the Adams hardware store was later, and here he had the first drug store.



Rev. Gates, (or Gage maybe—ask Mr. Black), a Baptist minister from Highland was the first minister, and we often entertained him at our home. He usually came over from Highland twice a month, coming on Saturday and returning on Monday. The women of Sabetha united in giving socials and festivals to buy the first church bell, and it was hung in the Baptist Church, then the only church in town. The son of Rev. Gates later attained prominence as John D. Rockefeller's private secretary.

## CHAPTER XI.

### CORNING.

ITS PECULIARITIES—A SOLID TOWN—FOUNDED BY A COLONY FROM GALESBURG, ILL.—DR. MCKAY—NAMED IN HONOR OF ERASMUS CORNING—POSTOFFICE ESTABLISHED IN 1867—FIRST STORE—LOCATION OF TOWN CHANGED WHEN RAILROAD WAS BUILT—FIRST HOTEL—JACOB JACOBIA—FIRST SCHOOL—PRESENT SCHOOL—DR. MAGILL—MODERN CORNING—HIGHEST POINT IN COUNTY—NATHAN FORD AND THE DROUTH OF 1860—POPULATION AND BUSINESS HOUSES.

Each town has its peculiarities and specialties. Seneca is famous for its social gaieties, its entertainments for the young, amateur theatricals, fine band, Community church and fine baseball team. Sabetha points with pride to its modern business buildings, musical organizations and municipally owned public works.

So Corning is designated as the town of solid foundation of Nemaha county. At the time this history was written a neighboring newspaper, the Troy "Chief," was running a sixty years ago column. A timely quotation from this column was to the effect that "Nemaha county is making a large and desirable accession to her population. A company from the vicinity of Galesburg, Ill., has recently located an entire township of land in that county, every quarter section of which is to be speedily enclosed and occupied by a settler. They also contemplate laying off a town. That is the way to come. Take up land by the township and cultivate it and speculators will find their occupation gone."

The man who brought this delegation from Galesburg, Ill., was Dr. N. B. McKay, a practicing physician of the Illinois city. Dr. McKay and two other men came to Nemaha county to locate a site for a colony. This is the expedition referred to in the quotation above. The result was the Home Association which was established in June, 1858, and became a noted organization which had nothing to blush for in their accomplishments, more than can be said for many early day similar organizations. The settlers were given their quarter sections of land and the village established was America City, which has grown but little from that day to this.

But Dr. McKay, not content with establishing happy settlers on fine land and starting one village, must needs build another, which is a more lasting monument to his genius, in numbers at least.

Before Dr. McKay left New York for Illinois, he was in partnership with Erasmus Corning. Dr. McKay named his second town in the county of the "No Papoose" in honor of Mr. Corning. He did not desert America City, however, for the newer and more prosperous town. For years Dr. McKay remained the beloved country doctor of America City, filling in spare moments as postmaster of the town.

Corning was established as a postoffice in 1867 with Dr. McKay, at the helm, or grated window rather. A small frame building was erected and a line of merchandise installed. Later W. H. Dixon erected another building and started a second store. This was about all there was to the original Corning. When the Central Branch of the Missouri Pacific railroad was extended through Nemaha county, Corning too, had to move to the railroad. Dr. McKay owned school land, one half of which he gave to the railway company for locating a station thereon.

So in 1870 Dr. McKay moved his store from the Old Corning to the



MAIN STREET, CORNING, KANS. A THRIVING AND PROSPEROUS TOWN.

new site and the thriving town was the third to be started by the enterprising M. D. J. S. Henry built the first dwelling in the new town. Dr. McKay built a frame hotel which he conducted for two or three years and which has passed through various hands. Three years later another building was erected, and sundry buildings were added from time to time which were largely moved into the settlement from neighboring settlements anxious to be near the railroad, or from farms. As the eighties advanced, Corning progressed and acquired a fine line of citizens, most of them being men of brains and genius and a few blue blooded aristocrats, whose lines extended back to the English nobility

Jacob Jacobia was one of the early day Corning men who helped to build up the community and strengthen it. His life was one of activity

and interest. He settled in America City in 1857, and was one of the original pioneers of the county. He was mail carrier from Atchison to Louisville in Pottawatomie county and through his own district for years. Then he freighted across the plains to Denver with his own train. Mr. Jacobia's stories of those days were always thrilling. Once, he said, he encountered a herd of buffalo, which covered the country in a solid mass so the ground was invisible for thirty miles. Once his train was attacked by the Indians, and 100 men, 300 head of cattle and fifty teams were corralled. Finally the men managed to collect under the leadership of Captain Jacobia, surprised their captors in a night attack and made their escape. Mr. Jacobia bought the Corning Hotel, where he was for several years the entertaining host to the increasing trade Corning was drawing. He was the father of "Billy" Jacobia, who for several years was the banker of Corning, as well as mayor of the town, while his wife was bank cashier and town treasurer. Billy Jacobia's death by suicide, after they removed to Kansas City in 1905, was one of the rare tragedies that have shocked the county.

The first school of Corning was especially distinguished. It was not simply started in any old room but a building was erected for the sole purpose. It is doubtful if many pioneer villages can make this boast. In 1872 a small district school house was erected, with Miss Minnie Bracken as the teacher. Six years later \$800 was expended to improve the school house and N. H. Walters, who was in charge, had sixty pupils beneath his watchful and experienced eye. Mr. Walters was a teacher of twenty years' experience before he came to Kansas. For over ten years directly following he was head of the Corning school. Now there are over 200 pupils enrolled in Corning's graded school. The school is divided into primary, intermediate, grammar and high school departments, with F. J. Whittaker at the head as superintendent, Miss Etta Burdette as principal, William Newlove in the grammar department, Miss Edna Baldwin, the intermediate, and Miss Sybil Robinson, primary teacher. Corning has a splendid high school with the full course. The building cost over \$8,000 and has been standing over twenty years, giving satisfactory service. It was built to endure. Some one with rare perspicacity must have planned the building, for its lighting is remarkable for that period of architecture. The windows alone comprise most of the frame work. Four and five windows are connected on one wall space, a method that is ordinarily followed today, but twenty years ago was neglected.

A resident of Corning who has done much for its furtherance should be mentioned, although his health is keeping him now in San Diego. Dr. Isaac Magill was one of Nemaha county's first born citizens. He grew up on the farm of his father, Samuel Magill, in the Capioma neighborhood, one of the first farms preempted in Nemaha county. Dr. Magill still votes in Corning. He owned the telephone company there and erected the attractive building which is its home. He always promoted

baseball and all other healthful sports, and was invariably depended upon to push every movement for the good of the town. When Dr. Magill was mayor of Corning he ding-donged at his fellow citizens until every board or worthless, brick sidewalk was removed and cement walks put in their places. Corning considers her cement walks a monument to Dr. Magill. A memorial to O. W. Ort, E. S. Vernon and V. Broadbent, other progressive citizens, Corning states, is the sidewalk laid from the city to the cemetery. The new electric lights Corning regards as a monument to her present mayor, C. L. Payne.

Corning has still another distinction. It is the highest point in Nemaha county.

Nathan Ford, whose death occurred recently at his farm near Corning, was one of the pioneers of Kansas. The famous drouth of 1860 was well remembered by Mr. Ford as he had to drive twice to Atchison for supplies for the poor in his vicinity. One of the trips required twenty-seven days. He was snow bound. Mrs. Ford took care of the farm during these trips. He went to Nemaha county in 1859, and had lived there ever since.

Corning with a population of one hundred people and eight business houses in 1882, has, in 1916, multiplied these figures by seven and is a most prosperous, contented country town, with an honorable past and a pleasing future.

## CHAPTER XII.

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### BERN.

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TOWN FOUNDED IN 1886—CONTROVERSY OVER NAME—ALTITUDE—NATURAL ADVANTAGES—STATISTICS—CHURCHES—SOCIETIES AND LODGES—BUSINESS ENTERPRISES—MINERAL SPRINGS—AS A TRADING POINT—ABOVE THE AVERAGE—BUSINESS MEN.

By Mrs. V. A. Bird.

The town was founded in 1886 with the advent of the Rock Island railway. It was then called Lehman, in honor of Christian Lehman. However, the name was soon changed to Basel, pronounced with the "a" sounded as in ball. Attempts were soon made to change it again, and the postoffice authorities, at the suggestion of some influential men, gave it the name of Collins, but so many protested that the name Bern was suggested and adopted. It may be well to note that Congressman Burnes, of Missouri, interceded for the Bern advocates. The name is appropriate on account of so many Swiss settlers who are from Berne, Switzerland. Bern is 1,600 feet above the sea level and is one of the most healthful locations in the world. The drainage is good. There is no sickness arising from the surroundings. The springs north of town contain medicinal waters and would be a good location for a health resort. The mercantile business is well represented in all lines ordinarily found in country towns. Manufacturing is represented by the Bern flouring mill, whose flour has a good reputation. There are four dry goods and grocery stores, one harness shop, two blacksmith shops, three drug stores, one meat market, one dressmaking parlor, two hotels, two restaurants, two doctors, two elevators, two hardware stores, one rusty calaboose, one depot, one barber shop, one hall, one flouring mill, one Turner hall, one printing office, one armful of pretty girls, one basketful of pretty boys, thirty dogs, 213 cats, thirteen bachelors, ten widows, twenty old maids, 300 good citizens, one lumber yard, one carpenter shop, one windmill and pump store, one millinery store, one bank, one furniture store, one jewelry and music store, best surrounding farms and best farmers.

Under the heading, "Directory of Churches, Societies," etc., we find: Bern Evangelical church, Rev. H. W. Hartman, pastor; Lutheran, two

miles southwest of Bern, Rev. D. A. Timm, pastor; Apostolic, south of Bern, John Plattner, pastor; Children's Home Society, Rev. J. M. Dreisbach, president; Mrs. E. M. McKinney, secretary; Bern Lodge, No. 319, Ancient Order United Workmen, J. J. Koehler, M. W.; D. D. Cunningham, secretary; Sunlight Lodge, Knights of Pythias, D. D. Cunningham,



TURNER HALL, BERN, KANS.

C. G.; A. J. Clyman, K. R. and S.; Turnverein, Jacob Spring, president; Charles Cassman, secretary; Bern Gun Club, T. B. Newton, secretary.

Among the advertisers we find F. G. Minger, the Bern jeweler; Olinghouse & Nusbaum, meat market and ice; Bern Cash Store, P. J. Firstenberger, proprietor; Jacob Schober, harness, saddles, etc.; I. G. Hamman, dry goods, clothing, shoes, etc.; D. D. Cunningham, M. D., office over Minger's hardware store; Joel Strahm, breeder of pure Poland China swine and Langshan chickens; James McKinney, contractor and builder; William Scott & Son, lumber, coal, etc.; G. M. Kinyon, druggist; John A. Minger, hardware; Otto Parr, drugs and chemicals; Newton Brothers, hardware and implements; J. J. Koehler, windmills and pumps; John Reinhart, furniture; The State Bank of Bern, capital, \$35,000. George A. Guild, president; Julius Hill, vice president; H. R. Guild, cashier; W. J. McLaughlin, real estate dealer; Jacob Ramsey Schweitze, lunch; Minger's Clamping Saw Set, John A. Minger, inventor, patented in the United States and Canada, December 4, 1894.

We copy in part the advertisement of the "Bern Mineral Springs." "These springs are situated two miles north of Bern at the base of Mineral Hill, on the farm of C. O. Minger, where the old Indian trail crossed Silver creek. Before this country was settled some white men traveling along the trail found, near where the trail crosses the creek, a quality of mineral which they thought was silver. When they sent some of the mineral to the East to be analyzed, the analysis proved the mineral to contain iron, manganese, aluminum, sulphur and several other minerals, but no silver. The old Indian springs issued low down in the bed of the creek. Recently wells have been sunk near the bank of the creek, and the mineral water of the Indian springs found."

Did you ever stop to think of Bern as a trading point and its value to the surrounding country as such? Did you ever contrast it with other towns of its size, and if you did would you find any point in which Bern suffered in the comparison? Where in this or adjoining States can you find a town of its size that has as many substantial brick business houses as has Bern? Where will you find a town with so many beautiful and well kept houses? Where can another be found that has no hovels or shacks or objectionable buildings? Where is another that can boast of an opera house or hall such as we have? Where can you find another of its size that has an electric light plant, or a better telephone system? Where can one be found with any better schools and churches? Where can you find a more enterprising, up-to-date accommodating class of business men, or a more intelligent, warm-hearted and sociable people than is found in Bern and surrounding country. "Well," you say, "what has all that to do with Bern as a trading point?" We answer: "Not very much. These are only symptoms—the external evidence—that Bern is above the average." In fact it not only excells as a business point, but is quite an ideal residence point. Among the best evidence we have, especially in comparison with other towns, are the impressions gained by traveling men and strangers who visit our town. They invariably rate us with a population twice our actual numbers after



viewing our business houses. No one is in a better position to judge the business of a town than the trainmen on the local freight trains that serve the towns along the line. Recently the conductor on the local freight, running from Horton to Fairbury, was asked at what town on his run he unloaded the most merchandise, and in reply the names of two towns were given. One of them was Bern.

The merchants of Bern all carry good stocks and are prepared to supply any merchandise desired by their customers upon very short notice. As a rule our farmers appreciate the fact that their property values are affected by the value of their trading point as a farmer and business man to develop the market, and are loyal to their own interests.

Like the omnibus, Bern has always room for more and will extend a hearty welcome to all new comers who desire to cast their lot with us for legitimate ends. We still have more vacant lots and room for more residents and more business. The commercial club will take pleasure in answering any questions and giving information to any one who desires to promote any enterprise in our city. V. A. Bird is president of the club. I. J. Kinyon is the mayor of Bern.

The following are the business men of Bern: A. H. and N. Nusbaum, H. G. Whittle, R. Hatch, L. Garber, J. A. Minger, V. A. Bird, J. S. Wittwer, H. L. Guild, E. Brien, C. Cowan, W. W. Driggs and W. W. Driggs, Jr., C. W. Walker, J. Emert, F. J. Wittwer, C. A. Poppe, M. Dennis, E. Brown, E. Cox, W. Graham, W. H. Harrison, J. Hilt and William Hilt, I. J. Kinyon, C. Puff, Dr. Meyer, A. Reinhart, E. Whisler, G. Nusbaum, Bauman & Nusbaum.

The residents, old and new, enjoy taking a glance backward on old Father Time, quietly turning back the ledger and taking a look at the first pages of past history. Now let us look at our little city at the present time. A few days ago a Mr. Hendee of Sloan, Iowa, who was traveling for his health via auto, stopped over night in Bern. The next morning, after visiting Nusbaum, Hatch, and Whittle, merchants of our stores, he remarked that he had traveled over the country a great deal and had seen a great many towns, but Bern was the best little town he had ever seen, judging from the stocks of goods that were carried by the merchants and the way they kept them up. He said Bern had stores that a town of 10,000 people might well be proud of. The above opinion is from a disinterested business man who is in every way competent to judge, but what is your opinion? Do you realize that Bern has twenty-eight brick buildings and more in contemplation? That Bern has more residences costing from two to six thousand dollars than any town in the county of its size? That it has a fine electric light plant that is housed in a concrete building? That it has the finest little opera house found in any town of its size? That it has more grades in its schools than any town of its size? That it has fine churches and a fine class of refined, cultured people? It is also a demonstration of two facts: First, that our

farmers are energetic, thrifty, progressive and prosperous people; and, second, that our business men possess the energy, push and business acumen necessary to make Bern an ideal town. Bern has twenty-seven business houses, viz: Two elevators, three general merchandise, three hardware, two implements, pump and windmills, two drug stores, two millinery stores, one blacksmith shop, one furniture store, one lumber yard, one harness shop, one meat market, one wagon shop, one jewelry store, one shoe shop, one bank, one restaurant, two hotels, one livery, one printing office and one barber shop. The professions are represented by two physicians, one dentist, and the trades by several carpenters, masons, painters, plasterers and decorators. A lawyer once tried to exist in Bern, but he gave it up as a bad job, thus proving that this is more than ordinarily a peaceable and law-abiding settlement.

As a rule our farmers appreciate the fact their property values are affected by the value of their trading point as a market for their product, also that it takes the combined effort of the farmer and business man to develop the market, and are loyal to their own interests.

The business men of Bern appreciate the fact that their home paper (edited by W. W. Driggs & Son) is the connecting link between them and their patrons. The efficient editors are dropping "hot lead" here and there, and their comments, both in their local and editorial columns, cause readers to look for the next issue.

## CHAPTER XIII

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### WETMORE.

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A SHIPPING POINT—A RAILROAD TOWN—NAMED FOR W. T. WETMORE—  
POSTOFFICE ESTABLISHED IN 1867—EARLY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES—  
FIRST EVENTS—A HANGING—EARLIEST CITIZEN—PONY EXPRESS AND  
OVERLAND STAGE—SCHOOLS—A JESSE JAMES INCIDENT—PIONEERS  
AND THEIR DESCENDANTS—FIRST SETTLER IN TOWNSHIP—PROSPECT-  
ING FOR COAL—BANCROFT—W. F. TURRENTINE—CARDINAL POINTS  
OF COMPASS DISREGARDED.

Seneca, Sabetha, Centralia and Corning are the four towns of the county, the direct outcome of hopeful pioneers who staked out the villages of their hopes and fought for their existence and welfare. The other towns of the county are the outcome of necessary shipping points, or the result of railroad traffic. Wetmore, the first and oldest of these, is the halfway town between pioneer hopes and shipping necessities, making the necessary link to harmoniously join the chain. Wetmore is located four miles north of the line separating Jackson from Nemaha county and within a couple of miles of the eastern border of Nemaha county. The Central Branch railroad surveyed ground between Atchison and Centralia as early as 1866.

A quarter section of ground was platted, a section house and station erected, a dwelling house constructed, a hotel built, on the promise that trains should stop there for meals, and Wetmore was finally launched as an embryo railroad town, the first established for such a purpose in Nemaha county. The town went further than that and named itself after W. T. Wetmore, vice president of the railroad at that time. In 1867 the town was given a postoffice, and business buildings slowly followed by a lumber yard, and later a grain elevator. In 1869 the DeForest Brothers put in a general store, as did the Rising Brothers, all of whom, or their descendants, have been the loyal upbuilders of their little town and clung to it tenaciously. The Wetmore House was built by Peter Shumaker, who long remained a widely known host. Later a second hotel was built, called the Overland House, which was not used as a hostelry until four years later.

Wetmore's first born child was a daughter, Mary Cassity, who lived only a couple of years. The first death was an infant child, Nellie

Rising, a descendant of one of the families who have made Wetmore known. Wetmore, being younger and more thoroughly organized than her sister towns, kept her statistics fairly better than most. There is no quarreling there over first happenings. Honor for the first marriage has never been denied Miss Mary Wolfley and M. Morris, who were wedded in 1870. The Wetmore school was first taught in 1868 with A. S. Kenoyer as schoolmaster.

The village was incorporated in 1882 and the first election resulted in J. W. Graham's election as mayor and William Morris, E. H. Chapman, William Bazan, Joseph Haigh, E. F. Vilott as councilmen and M. P. M. Cassity, police judge. These men for most part have remained identified with Wetmore and its progress.



AUTOMOBILES ON THE MAIN STREET OF WETMORE, KANS.

Wetmore's greatest venture on the road to fame came from its mineral springs, which in the eighties were found to be of medicinal value and water was bottled and shipped far and wide. The springs were not made a health resort, but for years the waters were sent abroad to heal the ailing.

Another venture in the world of notoriety drifted Wetmore's way when a hanging for horse thievery occurred near there. The alleged horse thief hid in his sister's house, which was attacked by a mob. The mob dragged the wretched boy forth, hanged him to a tree and went away leaving the ghastly picture a blot on the landscape and on the memory of Nemaha county's fair history. The occurrence was not in Wetmore's limits, rather nearer to Granada, a settlement now erased.

The earliest citizen of Wetmore might be said to have been M. Callahan, a native of Limerick, Ireland. Mr. Callahan was employed by the Central Branch railroad. He pumped water and lived in a box car where Wetmore now stands. Later he left the railroad and settled in Wetmore. Before coming to Kansas Mr. Callahan had helped install machinery in the famous war steamers, the "Roanoke" and the "Jamestown," familiar to any child who knows his United States history.

It is only natural that Wetmore should have been a railroad town, for many of Wetmore's early day citizens freighted overland or were pony riders in the famous pony express. Ham Lynn's story is told elsewhere. He was an express rider. Don C. Rising rode the pony for the express company from 1860 to 1862, and was later made assistant wagon master in the United States service. N. H. Rising, his father, conducted a station, Log Chain farm, in Granada, where overland travel made him well-to-do. Robert Sewell, of Wetmore, drove an overland stage in Iowa and later in Kansas, with headquarters in Leavenworth. For ten years he was in the employ of the Overland Stage Company. He named the Overland Hotel of Wetmore in its honor. It is doubtful if the railroad kept its promise that Wetmore should be the eating headquarters of the line in spite of all this.

Wetmore seems to have solved the school question in a satisfactory manner. A frame school house was erected on the highest point in the city and well away from noise and disturbance. The school building is lighted from all sides. It is in excellent condition, so well kept up that it looks like new, although the inscription tells the passerby that it was built in 1892. The building is surrounded by an immense yard, well sodded and filled with handsome shade trees. A perfectly trimmed cedar hedge surrounds the grounds. The building cost \$11,000, and the high school gives the complete course.

This is the building which was mothered by the first school building in Wetmore, which was the third building in the town. Jacob Guyer, M. M. Cassity and William Morris constituted the first school board, and the building opened with twenty-two pupils. So Wetmore, by reason of its speedily erected pioneer school building, lays good claim to intellectuality. Mr. Cassity was a lawyer, one of the first in the county. He was also a Kentuckian, and before coming to Nemaha county had taught school in Missouri. Immediately after his arrival in Nemaha county, in the late fifties, he taught school in the old log school house in Granada. Mr. Cassity was one of the interesting pioneers. He stuck to Granada as long as there was anything there. He was justice of the peace, town clerk, deputy assessor and general factotum. He was one of the pioneer travelers for the St. Joseph Gazette. The story goes that when he lived in Plattsburg, Mo., he defended and cleared a man by the name of Samuels, a half brother of Jesse James.

Speaking of Jesse James recalls the story that not long before his death he made Nemaha county a call, which was thought to be a pro-

fessional one. A short time before Jesse James was killed by Bob Ford both men were in Sabetha looking around with a view of possibly transacting some business. At the time, the Sabetha marshall was one Smith, who was bound to make a good record and possessed a very keen eye. He contracted the habit of looking very carefully at any stranger within the gates. James and Ford were crossing the street near the National Bank building when they met Smith face to face. Smith looked James straight in the eyes, and Ford and James took the first train out. When Bob Ford was in jail two months later for the murder of James, H. C. Haines went to take a look at him. Upon hearing where Haines was from, Ford told of the Sabetha incident and said that he exerted every influence he had over Jesse James to keep him from returning to Sabetha and killing Marshal Smith. James was convinced that Smith knew who he was. Many Sabetha people remembered having seen the men when their pictures were printed in the St. Joseph newspapers.

Wetmore seems to have retained her early day citizens, or their descendants, more than most towns. The merchants of today are the merchants of the early days, or their children or grandchildren. The same names are seen in the Wetmore paper every week, Vilott, De Forest, Rising, Haigh, names not of general use, are still identified with Wetmore.

During the current winter Mrs. George C. Cox died, leaving several farms near Wetmore and considerable cash to be divided among her several children. When Mr. and Mrs. Cox came to Wetmore from London, England, in 1868, Mr. Cox was so poor that he was obliged to pay for the first breaking on the farm he had homesteaded by giving his coat for it. The farms left by Mrs. Cox included the homestead. Mr. Cox remained on this homestead until his death in 1901. The winter after his arrival he built a "Kansas" or blockhouse on the farm and with a cord of wood as family supplies he commenced farming. Three years later he was the victim of the grasshopper scourge. But out of it Mr. and Mrs. Cox came unscathed. Four of their twelve children were born on the farm, the others in London, where Mr. and Mrs. Cox were married in St. Barnabas' Church. Her six Nemaha county sons were Mrs. Cox's pallbearers.

John Radford, who is mentioned in reminiscences of John Fuller as one of the promoters of the Kansas emigration of English workingmen, was a Wetmore resident. John Radford was a dreamer and a zealot. A dream of better conditions for the poor. A zealot in living his theories. He was an early day jeweler of Wetmore. His barren childhood, in which his fight for existence was an ever-living battle, made him only more determined to be educated and help others. He attended night schools, mechanics' institutes and lyceums. For a dreary seven years in his Devonshire, England, home he was apprenticed wageless to a jeweler and engraver. He became a Liberal in social matters. Of the immigration party to Kansas, written by Mr. Fuller, John Radford and James

Murray were the pushers. One pound (about \$5) shares of an emigration company were issued. Each member was allowed a maximum of fifteen shares. The company was supposed to buy American lands and lease them to others for developing. Six original families came over, twenty following shortly afterward. The company was a failure, for the reason that anyone could have Kansas land almost for the taking at that time. But fifty English families settled in Nemaha county, sturdy, thrifty, industrious, who have done much toward making the county one of solid foundation. So while the scheme failed the outcome was more than successful.

N. H. Rising, who was a pioneer citizen of Wetmore, had pioneered already in Granada and Sabetha. His was one of the first houses built in Sabetha, when, in 1858 and 1860, he ran a store there with George Lyons. Then he ran a hotel at Granada and in 1861 he built the ranch house at the famous Log Chain ranch. The Log Chain is now one of the Dr. Sam Murdock farms, one of 2,000 acres owned in the county by the founder of the Sabetha hospital. Log Chain's history is interesting. The ranch is situated at the crossing of the old military road of Log Chain creek, which still wends its way through the picturesque, historic farmland. When Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston was sent with United States troops to quiet the Mormon rising in 1844, he had a great deal of trouble in crossing this creek. Heavy chain after heavy chain was broken. Scores of heavy chains were broken by teams of twenty-four to thirty-eight ox teams in trying to drag the heavily laden military wagons and artillery through the stream. This gave the stream the name of Log Chain and the ranch took the name from its troublesome little river. Log Chain ranch was a pretentious house, for those days. It was 24x40 feet, and the barn was seventy feet long. Mr. Rising had a thriving business here during stage days.

The first settler in Wetmore township was Augustus Wolfley, a Pennsylvanian, who died on the farm he preempted thirty-five years ago or more. Mr. Wolfley built on a creek, a fine rushing stream, as did most of the pioneers. The stream now bears his name. His son followed him in 1856. Frequently the two men would go to Atchison for provisions and supplies. During a visit there they were arrested by a pro-slavery mob, tried and convicted and sentenced to be shot. They were given respite from the sentence, but were taken across the Missouri river in a boat and told to stay there and vote the pro-slavery ticket. They managed to get to St. Joe. In a ferry boat at that point they crossed to Wathena and walked back carefully, and by stages, to their Wetmore farm, a distance of seventy miles. The difficulty of this tramp may be imagined when it is recalled that the seventy miles was raw, unbroken prairie, with no landmarks and no knowledge of the country. Mr. Wolfley was one of the few pioneers well supplied with worldly goods when he came to Kansas. Upon his death he deeded a farm to each of his sons.

Wetmore being a younger child has also been a child more venturesome. The prosaic certainty of farm life did not appeal to Wetmore as persistently as to the rest of Nemaha county. To be sure, Wetmore was not founded for farming purposes, but for a railroad center. So perhaps it is not surprising to note that upon occasion, and frequently Wetmore has delved into the bowels of the earth in the fond hope of finding a shorter if less sure way to riches. The last venture was about 1907. when Wetmore went digging for coal. Indications were that Wetmore had coal. If she had coal, Wetmore wanted it where it was doing more good than in the ground. So she dug, and dug, and dug. If coal were not found, at least oil or gas might be discovered. The citizens stuck valiantly to their drill, but by the time they had gotten to a depth of 2,200 feet and there was nothing doing in either coal, gas or oil, Wetmore decided to let Pittsburg furnish their coal and they returned to farming. After the stated depth was attained the drilling apparatus was taken away, when hope revived in the despondent breast of the village and \$3,000 was raised to dig deeper. But the amount was not sufficient to warrant bringing the drilling apparatus back to town. It was figured that fully \$5,000 was needed and the hope was not sufficient to raise the sum. The drill was not put down deep enough to satisfy people, however; in fact many thought the money gave out just as something was about to be turned up. With this hope springing eternal in the Wetmore breast, it may be tried again.

In Wetmore township, adjoining Reilly in the southeastern section of the county, lies Bancroft, a small settlement of interesting folk. Bancroft has added several additions to the original old town, in which are located the bank, the hotel, the postoffice and stores and several homes. The additions are called Camp's, Woodburn's and Poynter's. The town of Bancroft has an excellent graded school, a blacksmith shop and a union church. Its streets are named First, Second, Elk and Sycamore, which is farther than most villages get in the street matter. There are, besides, a creamery station, stock yards and all conveniences for shipping the immense amount of stock and grain raised in the vicinity.

W. F. Turrentine, mayor of Wetmore and editor of the Wetmore "Spectator," has recently been dubbed "W. R. Hearst," as he has started several papers in Netawaka and a "string of papers is again inaugurated in Wetmore. The first "string" was started by Daniel C. Needham in 1878, which lived but a short time.

The town of Wetmore was laid out by the railroad, for the railroad and with the railroad. The Central Branch, always the most contrary road in the State, runs "cattycornered" through Wetmore. It is not on a true bias, but about three sheets in the wind, as it were. So Wetmore, taking the line of least resistance, went along with the railroad. Therefore, every street in Wetmore is diagonal and there is not a house apparently that is standing right with the world. A sailor of life training would lose his bearings in Wetmore.



## CHAPTER XIV.

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### CENTRALIA.

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THIRD TOWN IN COUNTY—TOWNSITE SELECTED—MOVED TO THE RAILROAD—LOCATED BY A MAINE COLONY—A WOULD-BE SEMINARY—PROGRESS—INCORPORATED—LIBRARY—BECOMES CITY PROPER IN 1906—DR. J. S. HIDDEN—PROMINENT NEWSPAPER MEN—SCHOOLS—VITAL STATISTICS—HOME ASSOCIATION—EARLY SETTLERS.

Centralia, the third town in Nemaha county, has her own personality and it is one that impresses. In the memory of man no scandal has emanated from Centralia, no brawls, no family disturbances. If Centralia has them she conceals them in the closet as a family skeleton and does not even let her sister cities know of her troubles. Therefore, the conclusion might be drawn that Centralia, Nemaha county, is not a gossip. Than which no higher praise can be given. Clean-spirited, clean-minded, clean-mouthed, Nemaha county is proud of her third-born living child.

Centralia, as has been said, was one of the villages built on a hill, who could not induce the railroad to take their point of view, and had, therefore, to tumble down the hill to the railroad. In 1859, J. S. Hidden, J. W. Tullor and A. A. Goodman picked out a slightly spot on which to build a village to overlook the fertile valley of the Black Vermillion stream. Within three years this seemingly village included a general store, a drug store, a school house, a hotel and even a lawyer with a law office. The lawyer was F. P. Baker, who afterward became the editor of the Topeka "Commonwealth," a newspaper famous in Kansas early days, but now passed on. In 1867 a blacksmith shop and several dwellings had been erected. And here the pioneers hoped to live, and thrive, and grow, and die. But many a happy plan has the ruthless railroad spoiled. Along came the Missouri Pacific with its slow moving, but depredatious Central Branch and, ever a lazy organization, it refused to climb the hill to Centralia. So down rolled Centralia, bag and baggage, to the foot of the hill, where the Central Branch still lazies by its doorstep, whistling promises of improvement that it never keeps. Of the original town company only Mr. Hidden took part in the purchase of the new site. Two hundred and forty acres were secured for the new Centralia directly on the bank of the Black Vermillion. Peter Clippinger, two Smith brothers

and A. W. Slater gave half of this purchase land to the railroad and the station was erected with the name painted thereon. I. Stichel put up the first building, A. Williams the second and John Smith, of the town company, the third. Meantime, down the hill rolled the buildings of old Centralia, with one notable exception, which is standing on the original site today.

A band of pioneers from Maine had come to Kansas and formed this settlement on the high and sightly hill. The people were intellectual and progressive. The Maine colony seemed to be of literary bent and bound to introduce the higher life into its settlement. Therefore it erected a big stone school building. This was intended to be the wing to a seminary eventually, for Centralia was meant to be a college town. The Maine colony was a well-to-do as well as an intellectual class of men and women. For ten years the settlement prospered, then came the railroad, and the houses and homes and business buildings formed the line of march and rolled down the hill to the valley and the railroad, where new Centralia has prospered as faithfully as her mother colony on the hilltop. The one building that was not moved today marks the ambition of the pioneers of the old town. The would-be seminary was left in its stately stone grandeur to mark an ambitious past. The old school building stands alone, its literary hopes dashed to the ground, a monument to the everlasting success of greedy commercialism over artistic ambition. The building has been remodeled into a modern farmhouse, the property of Z. B. Hartmann, who is raising wonderful crops on the townsite of Old Centralia.

Centralia moved and progressed physically and mentally until in 1882 the requisite number of citizens in the town warranted Judge David Martin, of Atchison, in granting an order incorporating the town into a city of the third class. In 1916, the month of January, Centralia is the only town in Kansas of 1,000 inhabitants to own its own electric light plant, furnishing twenty-four-hour service. Centralia also furnishes "juice" to Corning and Goff, her nearest neighbors to east and west.

Centralia is literary, too. Little sister that she is, she has maintained a notable library for twenty-five years through the devotion of her women to books, and of her men to the efforts of the women. In fact, Centralia is the only town in Nemaha county, and one of the few in Kansas of its size, to have supported a free public library for many years.

In the early eighties three women members of the literary union concluded that knowledge only is power. They were Mrs. A. S. Best, Mrs. F. P. Bowen and Mrs. L. R. Jackson. With the interest of their fellowmen uppermost in their hearts, they established a free public library. From their own pockets and by means of literary entertainments they gave the necessary wherewithal to buy the first books, supplementing the purchase with what books they could spare from their personal libraries. Many of their friends assisted in the work, and after



BUSINESS SECTION, CENTRALIA, KANSAS.

—Courtesy C. C. Wadleigh.



various struggles and many discouragements the little library was opened to the book-hungry community. There was no charge for the books and the country people were included and given free access to the library shelves. The library ladies believed that knowledge, like religion, should be free. The women were young mothers then, but from household cares and growing families they spared enough time to uplift the community. They gave entertainments from time to time for more books and magazines. They took afternoons from their own time to take turns as free librarians. From this little library in 1880 the Literary Union developed into the Library Association, which was a chartered organization of considerably larger membership. After a number of years this association lost their enthusiasm, and the ladies of the Centralia Reading Circle and a few remaining members of the old Literary Union opened a free reading room.

In May, 1906, by vote of the citizens of Centralia, the library became the property of the city. One mill was taxed, and there was not the least objection in the community. The entertainments continued, and the best magazines and newest books of all kinds were continually added. A few years later the tax was increased, which enabled the employment of a regular librarian. The library being opened but three evenings in the week, the distribution of magazines became difficult, which was solved by renting them at five cents for a short period. There are now about 1,500 books in the library for a town of 1,000 inhabitants. These are supplemented with books from the State traveling libraries. Another library in Centralia was presented to the public schools by A. Oberndorf, owner of the Eleanora Fruit and Poultry farm, in memory of his little daughter, Adele. There are 1,800 children's books in this collection. A similar gift has not been recorded in any State so far as Centralia knows.

The public library rooms are fitted with comfortable chairs, fine pictures, reading tables and all modern library conveniences. A framed charter of a branch of the Lyceum League of America, signed by President Roosevelt, is one of the library possessions of which the citizens are proud. The Centralia branch of the Lyceum League was organized in 1886, at which time Theodore Roosevelt was simply an American citizen, but was also president of the chief organization of the Lyceum League. The local league later became inactive and lost its charter. The signed charter hung, neglected and unadmired, in Mr. Bush's kitchen. But when Mr. Roosevelt became the leading citizen of America and the world, the old charter was resurrected from its ignominious surroundings, handsomely framed and properly housed with Thackeray, Dickens, Balzac, Hume, Gibbon, Izaak Walton, etc., in Centralia's library. The names of the charter members of Centralia league which are signed with Mr. Roosevelt's are F. A. Hybskmann, Wayland Shoemaker, C. W. McBratney, Sumner McNeil, W. B. Griffith and H. L. Wait, editor of the Centralia "Journal."

Dr. J. S. Hidden, one of the builders of Centralia, was the first surgeon in New England to use chloroform as an anesthetic. Surgery was little resorted to in those pioneer days. When it was, a patient was just supposed to grin and bear it. Dr. Hidden was the first regular practitioner in Nemaha county, and served in the Kansas legislature in 1863 and 1864. Prior to his removal to Kansas he had served in the New Hampshire legislature.

F. P. Baker, who was the old Centralia lawyer, and later became proprietor of the Centralia "Commonwealth" is also one of Centralia's original men of brains. The Topeka "Commonwealth" nourished many brilliant newspaper men of Kansas, men who have been and are the real fathers of Kansas. Associated with Mr. Baker on the "Commonwealth" was the late Noble L. Prentiss as local editor. Later Mr. Prentiss was editor of the Atchison "Champion," and when he died he was writing the Starbeams on the Kansas City "Star." It was Mr. Prentiss who gave the name "Herd Book" to Andreas' old History of Kansas, which has clung to the volume up to date, and always will. Mr. Prentiss was in Chicago when the proofs of the old history were brought into the office where he was a visitor. He looked over the proofs. "Well" said the Kansas wit, "you seem to have the whole herd here." The story was printed and when the book came out it was heralded as the "Herd Book," and so it remains to day. Few know that the book was compiled by one Andreas. Henry King preceded the Centralia Mr. Baker as editor of the "Commonwealth." Mr. King died within the past year, having been editor of the St. Louis "Globe-Democrat" for many years before his death. At a meeting of the National Editorial Association in Lawrence in 1914, Mr. King was one of the speakers, when he protested his love for Kansas above all other lands. His will left a portion of his wonderful library to Kansas. It is now in the Memorial Building in Topeka. Thomas Benton Murdock, late editor of the El Dorado "Republican," and called the "Beau Brummel" of the Kansas press, and an uncle of Victor Murdock, Congressman for many years from Kansas, was manager of the "Commonwealth" when it was owned by the Centralia lawyer. There hasn't been a lawyer located on the Centralia townsite for eight years, and the Centralia jail has no prisoners, in spite of the fact that it is steam heated.

Centralia would naturally erect a school building in which to properly house her school children, and in 1872 a building was erected at a cost of \$2,500. J. S. Stamm as the first teacher. The cyclone which swept the county in 1882 destroyed the building, and a building costing \$6,000 was put up in its place, which opened with 175 pupils, with O. M. Bowman as principal.

In 1906 the school building was burned and nothing was saved. The city of Centralia, progressive, literary, then erected a real school building. Grades and high school were included in one handsome structure, which cost \$18,000. This building included furnaces, dry closets, modern ventilation system, and the school board visited Kansas City,

St. Joseph and Topeka, calling at and examining all the modern schools in these cities before they commenced work on their own building. The building includes eight big rooms, an assembly room, a laboratory, two recitation rooms, a cemented modern basement for lunch rooms and manual training, big windows in all closets, doors opening outward.

The people of Centralia did not realize what a remarkable record the town had on infant mortality until baby week began to be discussed, and then it was found that the records show not a baby or child has died in Centralia for three years and only one in the past four and a half years, with the exception of two premature births. The four and a half years cover the period since the State law requiring the registration of deaths went into effect in 1911. Before that time no record was kept. The baby is studied in Centralia. For a number of years the Reading Circle had child study as a part of their weekly program. In the library are a number of books on the baby and the child. Bulletins on this subject, issued by the State and other good authorities, are never laid aside as unimportant, but are read with interest. Magazines with the best baby departments are most popular in the homes. Doctors are up-to-date and willing and ready to use the system of preventative medicine and give mothers advice about the feeding and care of babies rather than apply all their knowledge and skill in trying to save the baby when it is seriously ill. Most bottle babies are scientifically fed, and there are no bottle babies unless nature makes it necessary.

Babies in Centralia live out of doors as much as possible, and it is no novelty here to see the front porch fenced in with wire netting or any way to give the baby a safe out of doors play room, which is often used in winter as well as summer. There is no trouble in this town about pure milk; those who sell milk deliver it in sterilized, stoppered bottles. "Swat the fly" is a town slogan and it is considered a disgrace to have a fly in the house. If there is a case of whooping cough in town the babies are kept away from it. There hasn't been a case of measles or scarlet fever in Centralia for years, and diphtheria is unknown. Among the children just out of the baby class adenoids are watched and removed when found, and the majority of the parents have their children's teeth carefully looked after. Taking all these things into consideration, Centralia believes that these pictured babies have a good chance to live through the critical stage of childhood.

#### HOME ASSOCIATION.

(Written by Abijah Wells in the Seneca "Tribune" 35 Years Ago.)

The West has been the object of the wildest expectations and the scene of the grandest successes and bitterest disappointments that mankind have achieved or suffered, and of all the bright anticipations and Utopian dreams that have impelled humanity onward in their ever

moving march toward the setting sun, there have been few brighter, fairer or more ephemeral than that which inspired the formation of the Home Association, the legitimate progenitor of our now thriving village of Centralia. This organization was originated in Knox county, Illinois, in the summer of 1858. A constitution and code of laws were adopted and a committee appointed and sent to Kansas to locate the site of the new "Garden of Eden" to which should be attracted the ability, culture and refinement necessary to make it "The land of all on earth supremely blest." The committee, after a careful examination, selected six miles square, in the exact center of which was located the town of Centralia. The next winter a charter was granted them by the Territorial Legislature, and within a year hundreds of people had flocked to the new settlement, and a town had been built as if by magic, while on every hand new farms greeted the beholder. A building was erected, designed for the south wing of the Centralia College, to serve as the germ of the future grand educational institution that was to be developed there. The outside world was invited by a well prepared circular, gotten up, we believe, by C. H. Chitty, then secretary of the association, and now practicing law in Metamora, Ill., to "come and see a portion of bleeding Kansas transformed into a blooming garden."

For a time it seemed as if the highway of success was opening for the undertaking, but ere long private jealousies and sectarian prejudices were awakened that caused contentions to grow among the members of the society, which culminated on March 10, 1862, in what was for years afterward known as "The Centralia Riot," and for which the writer hereof, with some fifteen others, was arrested by John H. Rogers, then sheriff of Nemaha county, taken before H. H. Lanham, then as now a justice of the peace in Seneca, and after a week spent on preliminary examination, were bound over to appear at the next term of the district court, where the trial took place, and all were acquitted. James P. Taylor prepared the papers for the arrest and assisted in the prosecution, that being his first appearance in a Kansas court. In his closing argument he told the court to "Have mercy upon the boys, but to sock it to the old d—l." The defense was conducted by F. P. Baker, now of the Topeka "Commonwealth," and John C. Scott, who, years after, committed suicide in Marshall county, while William Histed acted as a sort of lay attorney, he at that time not having been admitted to the bar.

Thus ended the brilliant hopes and bright promises of Home Association, and with it the bubble of one more ideal "Utopia" burst.

The organization went down; many of the citizens, now thoroughly disgusted, sought new homes, or went back to "her folks." A good share of the houses were moved away or torn down. Among those moved to Seneca we may mention that of F. P. Baker's dwelling, which furnished the germ of the house now occupied by John H. Peckham, while his office is now the front part of Joseph Belne's dwelling. The old



Leatherby house, now on the bottoms east of town, was originally built in Centralia by William Holden. The Centralia hotel, after many transformations, is now the wooden part of the Cowdry building, the lower story being occupied by Johnston Brothers' land office and Parsons & Smith's boot and shoe store. And of the Centralia College, which was expected to become the Harvard of the West, nothing now remains but the building, transformed into a farm house, and occupied by our venerable friend, Robertson.

Of the early settlers of Centralia, but few now remain. Dr. Hidden, Stephen Barnard, A. W. Slater, O. P. Gallaher, Reuben Mosher, Alexander McCutcheon, John Hodgins, T. A. Campfield, the Sams and Yillmer families, Judson W. Stickney and probably some others whose names now escape our memory, live in or near Centralia. E. D. Hymer died a few weeks ago; his family still live near town. William Histed is probate judge of Nemaha county. Joshua Mitchell, county clerk; Dr. Shelton and Hugh Hamilton live in Beattie, Marshall county; Delos W. Ager, who has as generous a heart as ever beat in human breast, and whose house was often our welcome home, now lives in Vermillion, Marshall county. Seth B. Hough, the generous, whole-souled, good-natured Seth, is married and rearing a family in Berlin, Minn. Scott B. Humphrey has a valuable farm near Seneca, upon which he lives. Dr. N. B. McKay is practicing his profession in America City. J. W. Tullor, after serving Nemaha county faithfully as county clerk for eight years, was called home from earth some eight years ago. F. P. Baker, who was then practicing law in Centralia, and that winter represented his district in the Legislature, who, before leaving for Topeka, called his fellow citizens in Centralia together and in a well written address explained to them what great things he intended to accomplish for Home Association and the Centralia College, has since made for himself a name, and fortune, we hope, as editor and proprietor of the Topeka "Commonwealth." If he reads this article he will probably smile as we do (in a strictly temperance manner) at the bright pictures we then saw of the glorious results to be accomplished in the then immediate future, and remember with a chuckle and a spasmodic contraction of the muscles of one side of his face, the secret society organized in his office, with its magic pass word and glorious object, and later, the obituary poetry, of which the grandeur of its conception was equalled only by the elegance of its style.

## CHAPTER XV.

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### OTHER TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

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GOFF—A RAILROAD CENTER—NAMED IN HONOR OF EDWARD H. GOFF—LOCATION—JUDGE DONALDSON—MR. ABBOTT, FIRST MERCHANT—KELLY—A SHIPPING POINT—"THE KELLY BOOSTER"—A BEAUTIFUL CHURCH—THE KELLY BANK—SCHOOL—BUSINESS ENTERPRISES—PIONEER FAMILIES—THE VILLAGES OF DORCAS, CLEAR CREEK, SOTHER, PRICE, ETC.—THE TOWN OF BAILEYVILLE.

#### GOFF.

Goff goes a step farther than Wetmore and is the direct outcome of the railroad being run through its vicinity and needing a loading station. Goff is one of the youngest children of Nemaha county, and has surpassed in numbers its sisters of many years older. Goff, being primarily a railroad town and the only one built for that sole purpose, looks like an alien among her agricultural sister towns. Goff is hilly, with odd, abrupt hills rising suddenly and for no apparent reason out of the earth. It is straggling and in its unusualness, very interesting.

Goff was named in honor of a railroad man, or rather a railway official, Edward H. Goff, of the Union Pacific railroad. Whether to pronounce the town Goff or Goffs is always a bone of contention, and can always raise a satisfactory disturbance in the switch shanty when the much-discussed plan on improving the Central Branch and extending the line to Denver fails.

The town was laid out in 1880. Two years later it contained a hotel and store, occupying one building. Today it is a prosperous town of 700 inhabitants, with a good business street and one of the handsomest school buildings in the county.

Goff looks like the adopted child of Nemaha county. If a resident of Nemaha had never seen Goff and knew nothing of it and should be set down there in the night, he would scarcely believe he was in his own county. Just as the rest of the county is pre-eminently a farming community and the towns were built up for farmers' trade, Goff is a railroad community and seems to have known it from the time it was fashioned by Mother Nature. Nemaha county is gently undulating until she gets to Goff. Then she is filled with perpendicular hills, vales and views.

Unfortunately, Goff as a railroad center does not seem to be as thriving in its chosen line as one would wish. Two roads meet there and the town is attractive and individual in its hilliness, widely different from the rest of the Nemaha county towns, which are flat and level universally. Goff begins at the foot of a mountainous hill with the livery stable. It ascends perpendicularly half way to the clouds, where it ends in the handsome school house. Snowy winters in Goff are a paradise for Goff children. The only respectable coasting hill in Nemaha county is in Goff. The Goff school house, which is the pride of the town, was picked up off its foundation sixteen years ago by a cyclone. But the cyclone was comparatively gentle, as gentle as such an uncontrolled beast may be, and it carefully set the school house down. So instead of tearing the building down the Goffites simply put their fine school building back on the foundation and fastened it down tighter, where it served to educate the children and afforded a view that should have made an artist of every small boy in Goff, had he not found the frequent locomotive more fascinating than the pleasant outlook.

Goff has a citizen who has been a police judge about as long as Sabetha's Judge Cook. Since the beginning of time in Goff, Judge J. R. Donaldson has been police judge there. He takes care of the law and of his own domicile at one and the same time, and is an interesting character.

Mr. Abbott, who owned the first store in Goff, under the firm name of Abbott & Reynolds, still lives in Goff, but has been retired from actual business for ten years. Goff was very poor in the days when the town was first started. Clothes and shoes were at a premium. It must have been a drouth year or grasshoppers or winds or something. At any rate, the folks were hard pressed for wearing apparel and the necessities of life. Mrs. Abbott came to the hilly, hidden, hungry little burg, a young married woman, with a trunk load of lovely clothes. When she went to church she found the other folks arrayed in calico gowns, many without hats or even sunbonnets and some without shoes. So she folded away her lovely clothes, got out the plainest things she had, made her others of greater simplicity and went to church and did about as her less fortunate neighbors. But Goff now is a town of peculiar fascination. Its hills and dales, its good hotels, its several excellent brick buildings and its fine picture show give it an air so different from other towns of the county that it is always interesting.

#### KELLY.

The building of the Kansas City & Northwestern railroad through the county necessitated another shipping station midway between Goff and Seneca. Kelly was the result. Kelly has thrived and prospered and has gathered unto itself many from surrounding localities. A general store is run by Emil Jonach, Jr., whose name has been identified with

Nemaha county since its first settlement. Jonachs have been the first name in mind at Woodlawn and now at Kelly. Another store is that of Schumacher & Ketters.

Perhaps the prime mover in Kelly affairs for a long number of years is Dr. Fitzgerald and his energetic wife. Mrs. Fitzgerald is everything in Kelly. Dr. Fitzgerald is the druggist as well as the town doctor. But Mrs. Fitzgerald is the assistant druggist, the postmistress, the telephone operator, and she was the editor for several months of the only paper Kelly has had in several years, "The Kelly Booster." The paper was printed at Goff, but the effort was too great a tax on the village criterion and after a few months of excellent editing, it was abandoned. Some fourteen years ago, when Kelly was a mere infant child of the county, Bernard Harrish tried publishing a newspaper there. He is located at Smithville, Mo., in charge of the "Herald." William Kongs has a hardware store in Kelly, and R. S. Vandervoort is the village blacksmith.

Kelly has a beautiful new Catholic church, completed within the past year at a cost of \$40,000, Father Edwin Kassens, pastor. The exterior is more beautiful than the famous St. Benedict's, but the interior is not so elaborate. The Methodist church has been meeting in Kelly since the foundation of the town eighteen years ago. There were eighty original members and they are served by Rev. Moyer, of Corning.

The Kelly Bank is again the child of Nemaha county pioneers. G. A. Magill, a son of Caleb Magill, is the cashier. His wife is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Scrafford. Both names are identified with the foundation of the county. Charlie Scrafford was a founder of Seneca. Caleb Magill was a pioneer resident of Granada. Kelly has a farmers' union store and a barber shop. Its two elevators are owned by the union and the Denton Brothers, of Leavenworth, with Bert Cole as manager of the Denton elevator. The Catholic parochial school, in charge of the sisters, has one hundred pupils. Mrs. George Magill teaches the village school with about twenty-five pupils. R. M. Emery, of Seneca, is president of the bank. F. M. Spalding, whose home is in Lincoln, Neb., owns the lumber yard, which is one of a string extending from Sabetha to Lincoln. O. D. Ruse is the Kelly manager. There is a cream station under the management of F. E. Gabbert, another name prominent in Nemaha county history. There is a hotel and restaurant combined. This with less than 200 inhabitants, including the station agent, completes, the prosperous, little town. There is not a vacant dwelling in Kelly. In fact, the new station agent had to camp in a box car recently for two months until a house could be planned and arranged for the occupancy of himself and his family. There are also on the road between Goff and Seneca, Sourk and Kampler stations, mere shipping points for stock or grain on occasion.

George Magill, cashier of the Kelly bank, is a descendant of Caleb Magill, one of the four Magill brothers who helped to settle Nemaha

county. Four of the Magill brothers, who were among the earliest settlers of Kansas, married girls named Mary and they already had a sister Mary. So ever since their marriage their wives have been referred to as Mary with the Christian names of their particular husbands added. For instance, there are Mary David, Mary Aaron, Mary Charlie, and their own sister, Mrs. Payne, whom they call Mary K. or Mary Kansas, as that is her middle name in honor of her native State.

### VILLAGES.

One time postoffices which have passed out of the here into the nowhere were Dorcas, in Capioma, township, and Clear Creek. Both were kept only in farm houses, the rural routes putting them out of business. Near Wetmore about thirty years ago a section house was built and given the name of Söther, in compliment to the Hon. Thomas Söther. A store was erected, but it, too, has gone the way of blasted hopes.

Berwick, comprising a store and ex-postoffice and four houses, has continued as a stopping point of the Rock Island railroad between Sabetha and Bern. Price is a shipping point on the Grand Island between Oneida and Sabetha. Both have excellent stores, a convenience to the farmers nearby, and life saving stations for autoists who forgot to fill their gasoline tanks before leaving their homes on either side of the village stores. Price was named for J. E. Price, a prominent grain man of Sabetha in the early eighties. J. E. Price was a soldier, who received a medal for manning an abandoned gun at the siege of Richmond. He was well beloved in Sabetha and the grandmothers of today recall with affection broom drills and exercises and entertainments he taught them as little girls. In connection with Mr. Price is Samuel Slosson, who, with his brother, W. B., one of the real fathers and faithful lovers of Sabetha, built the Price elevator in Sabetha. Samuel Slosson was the first station agent at Sabetha.

The brothers moved from Sabetha to Albany during the exodus of 1870 to greet the coming of the railroad to Nemaha county. Samuel Slosson, who is dead, was the husband of Mrs. Dr. Emma Brooke Slosson, the only practicing woman physician of Nemaha county, who lives here still, retaining their old family home and the love and affection of her lifetime friends. Dr. Slosson is still practicing medicine. At one time she and "Old Dr. Irwin" of beloved memory, were the only practicing physicians in Sabetha, owing to a State restriction which required special examinations for physicians at that time. The Price village store is now run by M. J. Steiner, one of the Amish German brethren, who have taught improved farming methods to many American brethren tillers of the soil. The Berwick store is in charge of A. F. Grote.

## BAILEYVILLE.

Baileyville, the westernmost town of the county, was named in honor of ex-Governor Bailey's father, who laid out the town seven miles west of Seneca. It has prospered and become a convenient shipping point, if not a city of any considerable growth. G. M. Rasp was the first postmaster of the village and a St. Joseph firm established a store, hay sheds, etc. Later these were sold to the Bailey Brothers and to other interested local citizens. The St. Joseph & Grand Island put in a siding and Baileyville increased in numbers, citizenship and substantiality.

The most interesting thing of Baileyville is a community hall, built for the use and entertainment of both villagers and country people of the surrounding farms. Club meetings, social and business gatherings are held here. It is a well built, nice looking building, of which any community might be proud. The outlying farm lands are undulating and beautiful. The hills from the southern part of the country have rolled themselves out into more level surfaces, and the land is so pleasing to the eye as to bring a covetous sigh from the passerby.

An interesting pioneer who did much for this part of the country was Xavier Guittard, who was the oldest postmaster in point of service in the United States at the time of his resignation, about 1908. He had been postmaster of Guittard Station for forty-seven years. He came to this section in 1857 with his father. Guittard Station was named for the elder Guittard and was one of the famous stations on the old California trail. George Guittard and Xavier Guittard managed the township's affairs for twenty-five years, and the elder Guittard was the confidential agent of "Ben" Holliday when he managed the great overland stage company. The California trail ran directly through the Guittard farm, and Guittard Station was one of the most important on the famous route. Many distinguished persons were entertained by Xavier Guittard and his father in those days. When Xavier Guittard sold the old homestead a few years ago, he presented the Roman Catholic Cathedral at Leavenworth with a French crucifix which had been a treasure in the Guittard family for more than 300 years.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### ONEIDA.

FOUNDED BY COL. CYRUS SHINN—ELECTION OF NAME—LIQUOR RESTRUCTION—SUPPORTED GOVERNOR ST. JOHN—POSTOFFICE—EARLY ENTERPRISES—CHURCHES—SUBSTANTIALLY BUILT—SCHOOL—"REAL ESTATE JOURNAL"—NEW YORK "TRIBUNE" REPORTS OF "BLEEDING KANSAS"—FIRST RELIGIOUS SERVICE—LODGES AND WOMAN'S CLUBS.

Col. Cyrus Shinn founded Oneida, now a thriving town of 300 inhabitants, lying midway between Sabetha and Seneca, on the Grand Island railroad. Colonel Shinn's idea was to give a town lot to every one who came to Oneida to settle and build up the city. He bought 400 acres of land in 1873, laid out streets and lots on most of it and named it Oneida. In an election held for naming the town Oneida or Shinn town, Oneida won. Why it was so named is not explained, as Colonel Shinn was a Southerner from West Virginia. He used to say in the early days of Oneida that he would "boom the town if he never made a cent." One thing was required of Oneida settlers on the Shinn lots, however, and that was the settler was not to sell liquor or allow it to be sold on the premises. The result is that Oneida has never had a saloon, and Gilman township was the only one in Nemaha county that returned a majority for Governor St. John, the Kansas Governor whose election was won on the Prohibition ticket. It is recalled during that stirring campaign that St. John was burned in effigy in many towns, so opposed were the people to prohibition. Twenty-five years later monuments were raised in his honor and praise, so convinced had Kansas become of the excellence of his prohibitory law.

Before Colonel Shinn decided to put his farm into a town, a post-office called Oneida had been kept in the farm house of Henry Kerns. It is possible that the name "Oneida" was found more euphonious than "Shinn town," although there is occasionally found a former resident of the village who refers to it as Shinn town. Colonel Shinn erected a store building, which eventually became the postoffice, with J. O. Stienbaugh as postmaster, succeeding the farmer, Kerns. An acre of land was presented to G. W. Buswell for establishing thereon a cheese factory. Colonel Shinn meantime was traveling through the East advertising his town by lectures, handbills and pamphlets, and giving away lots to all

comers. Surely no town was built on firmer faith. He opened a land office and started a newspaper called the Oneida "Real Estate Journal." The customary blacksmith shop and necessary stores followed and a two-story hotel was built, called the Lindell. The first keeper of the inn was B. F. Chamberlain. The owners since have been many and varied. But the hotel is still open and of daily use to travelers. The streets were named in order after Presidents, as are the streets in Chicago, in whose footsteps it was supposed to follow. Two churches



PUBLIC AND CHURCH BUILDINGS, ONEIDA, KANS.

were built immediately, one a Christian church, and the other with the metropolitan name of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian.

Oneida was built at once. No makeshifts were permitted. A school house, two stories high and graded into four departments, was erected on a slightly hill without delay. An opera hall was built for public gatherings, substantial and roomy, in continual use today. A park was reserved, with the distinguished name of Hyde Park, and a restaurant was



opened with the famous title of Rialto. The town thrived and flourished and filled up with smart, progressive people, and is so filled today over forty years later.

The "Real Estate Journal," however, was sold to J. F. Clough, editor of the Sabetha "Republican," who conducted it for four years as the Oneida "Journal," and four years later suspended the publication. The cheese factory became the most famous in the county, its sales extending from St. Joseph to Denver, and prospering until the cheese trust put all small establishments out of business. This booming and thriving and advertising of Kansas and Oneida did its part in helping the State into its own. Reports taken or sent "back East" were not always so glowing as those borne by Colonel Shinn, as will be seen in the following harrowing Eastern newspaper tale.

Ex-Postmater Russell, of Oneida, has a copy of the New York "Tribune" dated August 9, 1856, which contains thirteen columns of correspondence from Kansas. Over half of the eight page issue of the Tribune was devoted to the trials and tribulations of the Free State men. None of the correspondence was less than a week old and some of it was a month old. Those were slow days in the transmission of news to the papers. All the correspondence went to the "Tribune" by mail.

The correspondence was all full of horrors—tales of political assaults and murders; of prejudice and of wrongs perpetrated because of prejudice. To read this paper one can readily see why the State is called "bleeding Kansas." To go through the mass of correspondence seems like walking through a chamber of horrors. Emigrants coming from Illinois and Ohio and other States were stopped in Missouri, robbed and plundered and sent back toward their starting point. Every paragraph of the thirteen columns is filled with blood and plunder.

One writer in a letter written in St. Louis says:

"I am, at last, out of the demon's claws. I reached this city, from Kansas, yesterday evening. I am en route for Baltimore, and shall start on my way tonight.

"Anarchy, in its most hideous form, runs riot in Kansas. There is no war between the two parties, the principals of the war are ignored. It is murder and plunder which devastate the land. I have been assailed five times within four weeks, and have very narrowly escaped with my life, not without gross personal violence. At Lecompton, last Tuesday, I was set on by a howling mob, and my life threatened. I called on Governor Shannon for protection, but he informed me that he could give none. 'Your people,' said he, 'are shooting down our people at every turn, and you must take your choice.' These were his words. He advised me to leave the town, and I did. The United States soldiers can do but little; martial law alone can save all parties from going to destruction.

"My hope in Kansas becoming ultimately a Free State is in nowise diminished. They can never get an actual population in the Territory

who will prefer Slavery to Freedom. The men who are now in from the South are mere desperadoes, who have been brought out for the express purpose of murdering and plundering the people; they are entirely unfit for any industrial or honorable occupation, or anything good whatever—the basest ruff-scruff of Southern cities. Whenever the work of murder and pillage is done, they are done with Kansas, and it will be left again to the bona fide settlers.”

Here is another little incident experienced by a man named John A. Bailey while he was going to market:

“I have been fourteen months in the Territory; came from Pennsylvania; I started last Tuesday morning for Little Santa Fe, after provisions for myself and neighbors; I had gotten as far as Bull Creek by five o'clock in the evening, when a man came up and stopped my wagon, telling me to stop there for the night; this man was Coleman, the murderer of Dow; he had twenty men encamped where I met him; among them I recognized Buckley, Hargus, Jones, Connelly and the Cuming brothers. The two first were also accomplices in the murder of Dow, and all of them in the posse of Jones which took Bransom; in the night my horses were stolen, their halters cut; in the morning these men made pretense of sympathy, and said, ‘It was too bad for people to steal horses from their friends;’ they told me I could find them in the camp at Cedar Creek, and three of them volunteered to go with me; I borrowed a pony and leaving my wagon with the others, started.

“After going about half way to Cedar Creek we met a large company of not less than two hundred men; they took me prisoner and ordered me to dismount; after taking me for some distance in a wagon, well guarded, I was again compelled to mount my pony, and the three men who came with me from the other camp held a consultation with the officers of this. I overheard Coleman say, ‘There may be treachery used.’ but could gather nothing definite of their intentions further, save that these three men who had volunteered to help me find my horses were sent to take me to Westport; the company went on over the hill in the prairie; shortly after they disappeared these men led me off the road a hundred yards into the prairie; they made me dismount, and demanded my money. I gave them all that I had, \$45, without a word; one of them then raised his gun as if to shoot me; it was a United States musket; I told him if he meant to kill me he would kill a better man than himself; lowering his gun, he said, ‘I wish you to take off them pantaloons for fear they get dirty.’ I told him they were mine as long as I was alive; he again raised his musket, but while he was in the act of firing I dodged; the ball hit me in the side, glancing along my ribs, and through the cartilages, lodging in my back. I fell. He then struck at my head with the butt end of his musket, but missed, only grazing it; as he struck at me the other two men rode off as fast as possible after the company that had gone over the prairie; he struck at me again, when I caught the musket in my hands and held on to it; he held the other end

and jumped on my body, stamping on head and face, but as he wore Indian slippers he did not hurt me much. He then tried to jerk the musket from me, and in doing so pulled me to my feet; I still held on to it, and dealing him a blow with my fist, he let go the musket; he then ran after the others, calling them to come back, but they had gone some distance and did not hear him; he ran after them and I ran after him; he commenced running harder, and soon disappeared; I then turned, ran some distance into the prairie, and hid in the grass; three hours passed quietly, when I left my hiding place and wandered toward home."

Mrs. P. W. Cox, of Oneida, tells of the first religious service held in Nemaha county which she recollects perfectly. "I was only a little girl of nine years when we came to Kansas. Everything that was out of the ordinary monotony of the day was impressed vividly on my mind. I recall the first sermon preached in the county, if not in northeastern Kansas. It was at a Mr. Harrison's. We sat on beds and chairs and boxes in a log house. The preacher was a Methodist circuit rider. These circuit riders came here for the money and food that was contributed and they received no salary. They traveled on horseback, and each man's horse was equipped with a picket rope, pins and straps to the saddle to carry their clothes as cowboys do. They carried their food with them, it often being miles and miles from one appointment to the other."

Oneida has several thriving stores, a Methodist church, Rev. Nathaniel Adams as pastor, and a Christian church, served fortnightly by Chancellor Oeschger, of Lincoln, Neb. It has several lodge chapters and a woman's club organization, "The Modern Penelopes," and a "Camp Fire Girls" chapter. They give clever plays and entertainments and keep people amused.

## CHAPTER XVII.

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### NEMAHA IN THE BORDER WAR.

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ANTI SLAVERY SENTIMENT—UNDERGROUND RAILROAD—JOHN BROWN  
HERE—REV. CURTIS GRAHAM—RECOLLECTIONS OF WILLIAM GRAHAM  
—NEMAHA NOT SERIOUSLY AFFECTED—QUANTRILL—SLAVES HERE  
—JIM LANE HERE—MEXICAN WAR VETERANS.

Albany and practically all the eastern section of Nemaha county was anti-slavery sentiment. It was settled by Northerners as the western half was by Southerners. Nemaha county had little experience with the border war because it was too far from the river. Sixty-five miles in those days was some distance, and the border war existed between Atchison and St. Joseph, Weston and Leavenworth, all towns on opposite sides of the Missouri river which was the dividing line between northern and Southern sympathies. Nemaha county had some finger in the border difficulties inasmuch as the county was on the direct line of the "Underground Railroad" and Albany was the principal station on the road. Both John Brown and Jim Lane were Nemaha county visitors during these strenuous times. At one time John Brown with a number of followers and "travelers" in course of transportation on the "Underground railroad," arrived at Albany. John Brown, the great abolitionist, a big bearded man, found room to sleep at the Whittenhall cabin, even if it was nearly all filled with piano. The guns were stacked in the other corners not occupied by the famous music box. The rest of the party stayed at the Edwin Miller place. It is an odd thing that, although Albany became a certain place in which to protect slaves, there are very few negroes, comparatively, in Sabetha, or in any part of Nemaha county and none at all in Albany. Both the Slossons and the Grahams were underground railway agents. At one time John Brown came through with thirty-five slaves. He had "borrowed" wagons and horses from Missourians to carry the refugees to freedom, and he was protected all the way by the settlers in Nemaha county who sympathized with him. The owners of the wagons were mildly bringing up the rear, asking that their property, both slaves and horses, be returned. No battle followed and people were merely amused at the incident. William Graham claimed to be the last man to see John Brown on Kansas soil. Graham guided Brown and a party of slaves which Brown had railroaded by the

underground route from Missouri to the Nebraska line, and saw them safely across the river. It was John Brown's last trip through Nemaha county or Kansas.

Rev. Curtis Graham, who pioneered in Nemaha county, but moved back to New York later where he died about ten years ago, was an intimate friend of Jim Lane. He came out to Kansas in 1856, presumably to be of what assistance he could to General Lane. In the year of the great drouth Dr. Graham went east to secure succor and funds to relieve the suffering in Kansas. He secured thousands of dollars in money and food. Dr. Graham did not belong to the Graham brothers of Albany. He was of Seneca, and the more to be admired as many in that part of the country were pro-slavery people. He is a father of D. B. Graham.

William Graham, now of Dodge City, is the earliest settler on the Sabetha townsite now living. Mr. Graham took the first claim on what is now the Sabetha townsite. The claim covered what is now the south side of Sabetha. He took the claim in March, 1857. The claim extended a block north of the Rock Island track, and it took in the land between Hense Hazell's residence in the eastern part of Sabetha and the Sabetha hospital on the west side of Sabetha. The race track and all the present town south of the Rock Island track (and considerable land just north of the track) were taken in by Mr. Graham's land. Mr. Graham sold out in 1881, disposing of the west half of his land to Samuel and William Slosson and the east half of it to Jackson Cotton and A. N. N. Kentner.

Three or four months after Mr. Graham preempted land here, Capt. A. W. Williams appeared. There was then nothing but open prairie on the townsite. Captain Williams decided to start a town here. Captain Williams bought a claim one half mile east of Albany in Brown county and used his preemption right on that. In the spring of 1858 he filed on the south half of section 1, township 2, range 14 for a townsite but could not hold it, so he sold his right to the quarter to J. J. Goodpasture and hired Joseph Legg to preempt the west quarter.

William Graham says the story that Jim Lane named the Sabetha townsite is a mistake. He also says the story that Capain Williams got the name from a well a few miles east of here which had been given the Greek name for Sabbath by a stranger who had lost an ox on the spot on Sunday, is a mistake. Mr. Graham who was here through all that early period says he does not know how the town got its original and unusual name; that probably nobody knows and that the origin of the name will never be known. Of course others says that the story previously told of the naming of Sabetha is accurate.

Mr. Graham says James H. Lane named two towns in this vicinity. One of the towns was started on Pony Creek and Lane named it Plymouth. The other town was started on the place where Ed Brown now lives near Sabetha, and he named it Lexington. Neither of the towns

got beyond Lane's imagination. This was in 1856—a year before Mr. Graham located here.

When William Graham came to this section he was accompanied by a party of New Yorkers. The party consisted of William Slosson, Edwin Miller, now deceased, and John L. Graham, also deceased. John L. Graham was captain of Company D, Eighth Kansas, during the Civil war. He was in the sanguinary struggle at Chickamauga in 1863, being killed in battle. Afterward the Kansas legislature honored John L. Graham by naming Graham county, Kansas, for him. John L. Graham was a brother of William Graham. William Graham fought in Company A, Seventh Kansas. The first party mentioned as having come from New York in 1857, was soon afterward followed by George Graham, Elihu Whittenhall and Archibald Webb, all names that are familiar to Nemaha county people. When Edwin Miller came from New York he was accompanied by his wife and their son, C. E. Miller. Edwin Miller died some twenty-five years ago. His son is principal of the St. Joseph High School, and has held the position over twenty years. When C. E. Miller became principal of the St. Joseph High School, he succeeded a man named Strong. A few years ago Strong became the Chancellor of the Kansas State University, succeeding Chancellor Snow.

The border war of the pioneer days of Kansas affected Nemaha county as little as did the Indian raids of less fortunate districts. Nemaha county, sixty-five miles from the Missouri river, seventy from Topeka and a hundred or more from Lawrence, was spared the bitter struggle between anti- and pro-slavery men. The underground railroad had a station in Nemaha county and several vigorous, enthusiastic "agents." The new generation may not understand just what is meant by "Underground railroad" in the sense in which it is used in Nemaha county's history. The "Underground railroad" was a term used before the Civil war, indicating the method used in assisting fugitive slaves to escape from this country to Canada. The "stations" were the houses of anti-slavery men, or abolitionists. The agents were the owners of these homes. The slaves were secreted in the daytime by the "agents" at their "stations" and passed along at night, over devious branches of the "railroad" until they reached Canada, safety and freedom. Of course there was no physical railroad at all. This is interpolated because of the apt inquiry of a boy who wanted to know what became of the "railroad." For years the term was a mystery to the writer.

One reason possibly for the absence of fierce quarrels in the border war in Nemaha county is that there were no newspapers published in the county until after the beginning of the Civil war. The early settlers were largely from the East, many from the South coming to northern Kansas largely to escape their motherland's slave beliefs. This seems to be undeniable for these southerners fought for the Union when the Civil war was finally declared. The five or six years intervening between the arrival of the first settler and the Rebellion were spent largely

in the struggle for existence, but the underground railway kept the county in close touch with the unhappy situation in the more populated part of the State.

One of the interesting connections Nemaha county gets with the border war is the fact that a prominent citizen of the county came from Canal Dover, Ohio, which was the boyhood home of Bill Quantrill, of the famous Quantrill raid of Lawrence, Kans. H. C. Haines, of Sabetha, says that Quantrill was a boy who had no "folks." He came out West with a family by the name of Beach. Beach located near Lawrence. No one seems to know what became of Quantrill. An editor of a paper claimed to know, but Mr. Haines thinks he does not. It is generally supposed that Quantrill went down to Texas, where he probably died. Mr. Haines thinks this is the most probable ending of the lurid career of his former townsman.

Of the border war period, Nemaha county had one lingering "taste." Two slaves were brought to Nemaha county and retained here in the late fifties. "Two girls were brought to Albany before the war and held as slaves, the only human beings ever held as chattels in Nemaha county," a record of them states, which has been preserved in the historical archives of the State. L. R. Wheeler kept the girls as servants in his family, and probably not as slaves as the story goes. He needed servants; they needed protection and a home. The girls drifted away and nothing much was thought of the matter.

The first escaped slave to become a settler was Mrs. Holden, who, in 1862, reached the saving station in Albany with her five children, where she remained for several years. Her son was killed in the Civil war and she received a pension of \$1,800 and accumulated a fair legacy to leave her children when she died in the eighties. W. G. Sargent rescued from slavery Lena Russell and Mrs. Jane Scott and Daniel Russell. Charles Holden married Lena Russell and became an intelligent farmer. John Masterson, another slave to escape to the sheltering arms of Albany, married another Holden girl, and Cora Holden married Thomas Frame, who had Indian blood in his veins and whose marriage ended in the divorce court. Up to 1884 this was the only divorced colored couple on Nemaha county's dockets. Mrs. Scott lived for many years in the Sargent family where Mrs. Sargent taught her to read and write. After she left Mrs. Sargent for many years a correspondence was kept up with the colored woman.

Another incident of the border war days, recalled by W. C. Rutan, of Sabetha, is that Jim Lane camped on the Dick Blodgett farm in the southeastern section of the county. Of everyone who came along or at every farm he visited, Jim Lane would ask whether traveler or farmer were Confederate or Union in their sympathies. But no difference what reply was made the Jim Lane followers took whatever they had, on general principles.

Many Nemaha county residents were in the Mexican war. Among

them were Thomas Carlin, Patrick Bendon, George Frederick, George Goppelt, James M. Hicks, Henry M. Hillix and Joseph Morrill. Mr. Morrill was in the New England regiment; Mr. Hillix in the First Kentucky mounted volunteers; Mr. Hicks was in an Indiana regiment; Mr. Frederick and Goppelt in the regular army and connected with a battery under the control of Col. Braxton Bragg, while Mr. Carlin was attached to the Marine battery, and participated in the battles of Monterey, Buena Vista, Resaca de la Palma, Saltillo and Vera Cruz. Mr. Carlin was within twenty feet of Major Ringgold and within 200 feet of Lieut. Col. Henry Clay, Jr., when they fell mortally wounded. As two Indiana regiments became demoralized, and retreated from the field of action in the hottest of the fight, Mr. Carlin was ordered to turn his battery upon them, but declining to do so he was tried before a court martial and gave as a reason for disobeying the command that he would prefer killing Mexicans to killing Americans. He escaped a sentence through the interference of General Taylor, whom he regarded as his guardian, and who cautioned him in the future like a good soldier to strictly obey orders. Mr. Carlin's home was then in Plaquemine, La., where General Taylor lived, and for whom he cast his first vote in 1848.



## CHAPTER XVIII.

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### NEMAHA IN THE CIVIL WAR.

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NEMAHA RESPONDED PROMPTLY—A COMPANY ORGANIZED HERE—GEORGE GRAHAM ORGANIZED A COMPANY—"JOHN BROWN'S BODY"—BELONGED TO THE SEVENTH AND EIGHTH REGIMENTS—REAL WARFARE—TROOPS RETURN ON A FURLOUGH—NEMAHA SOLDIERS IN IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENTS—NEMAHA BOYS IN THE NINTH CAVALRY—ELEVENTH REGIMENT IN CAMPAIGN AGAINST INDIANS—NEMAHA SOLDIERS SAW MUCH SERVICE—PROMINENT NEMAHA MEN IN THE CIVIL WAR—GRAPE SHOT FOUND HERE—WAR RELICS.

Nemaha county was settled largely by New Englanders and New Yorkers, so it was natural that Nemaha's enlistment in the Union army was unusually large. In the course of the war but eight men were drafted into the army from Nemaha county. This would not have been necessary if time had been given for a wider canvass of the willing and patriotic. At one time in Sabetha there was but one man left in the entire community. Capt. A. W. Williams, of Sabetha, organized a company of 150 volunteers in August, 1861. They were encamped upon their enlistment near Sabetha and Captain Williams furnished their rations at his own expense. Within a month they marched to Fort Leavenworth where most of them were sworn in as members of Company D, Eighth Kansas regiment. Later George Graham organized a company, one third of which joined either the Ninth or Thirteenth Kansas regiments, and in addition there were forty Nemaha men in the famous Eighth Kansas regiment and seventy in the Thirteenth. The Nemaha men served generally all through the war and the special Nemaha county regiment, the Eighth, was fighting way down in Texas at the close of the war, while the Thirteenth was sent home from Little Rock, Ark.

The Seventh Cavalry was organized on the twenty-eighth day of October and ordered immediately into active service. The Colonel was Chas. R. Jennison, of Leavenworth, and the Lieutenant Colonel was D. R. Anthony, for years the editor of the Leavenworth "Times," and a leading Kansas man for many years, a valiant fighter for Woman Suffrage and a brother of Susan D. Anthony, whose name will always lead the American suffragists. Dan Anthony, Congressman from this district and editor of the "Times" since Colonel Anthony's death, is his

son. Edwin Miller, of Sabetha, was the second lieutenant in Company I. The Seventh's first battle was an attack on Col. Upson Hayes encamped on the Little Blue River in Missouri, where Kansas City now lies, Lieut. Col. Anthony commanding. Thirty-two of the Seventh were killed, the rebel camp burned and all the horses captured. An exciting incident of the Seventh's career was the arrest and deprivation of his command, of Lieut. Col. Anthony for publishing an order for the severe punishment of any officer in his brigade who should arrest and deliver to his master any fugitive slave. The Confederates, it seems, had been making a habit of searching the camp for slaves, to the great indignation and annoyance of the officers in command. The Seventh fought in Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama and Missouri.

In January, 1864, many of the men who were encamped at La Grange, Tenn., were taken ill from exposure, and suffering from frozen feet. Four fifths of the regiment were re-enlisted volunteers. These were given a furlough of thirty days. At its expiration they were re-equipped and were sent back to St. Louis, serving for a time as guards to laborers repairing railroads. During a march through Mississippi, they were constantly attacked. Later they returned to St. Louis and thence to Omaha, to Fort Kearney and Fort Leavenworth, where they were discharged from the same point at which they entered the service. A famous, or notorious member, perhaps, is the word, of the Seventh was Marshall Cleveland, the outlaw who organized Company H. He was the first captain of his company: a handsome, dashing, fearless man. Company H was largely composed of the famous band which operated on the Missouri borders in the turbulent days preceding the Civil war. Cleveland's career even prior to this border war had not been entirely unchequered. He was a stage driver in Ohio, had served a term in the penitentiary, and upon being freed therefrom had changed his name from Charles Metz to the one by which he became famous over the entire country. Colonel Anthony terminated Cleveland's career as an officer of the Seventh. The brilliant, dashing, handsome Captain Cleveland appeared at dress parade with his pants stuck down in his boots. Colonel Anthony reprimanded him. Cleveland rode into Leavenworth, sent in his resignation and the Seventh saw him no more.

Another famous captain of the Seventh was John Brown, Jr., a son of the famous John Brown. He was a brilliant captain during his brief service, which lasted only six months, because of ill health. It was John Brown's company which taught Kansas the famous war song, "John Brown's body." Every night rabid worshipers of John Brown would gather around the camp fire and sing the famous air. A fervid address followed, which usually ended in an oath taken to avenge John Brown's death. Then three cheers were given for the young captain and the company retired.

During the entire service of four years only twenty men of the Seventh were taken prisoners. Of the Nemaha county members of the Sev-

enth whose graves are decorated Memorial day are Charles Boomer and Edwin Miller. The Seventh was one of the picturesque regiments of the Western army. It was fearless and feared. Romantic women admired it secretly. It was adored by slaves, dreaded and hated by Confederate soldiers, and besmirched by Unionists.

There was nothing picturesque or romantic about the Eighth Kansas, to which most of the Nemaha county men belonged. It is the story of real warfare, sordid, bitter, cruel, severe. No pictures of brilliant attacks and high-handed captures, but long, unnecessary marches over almost impassible roads, only to find when reaching their destination that the march was a false move, the enemy gone and a return necessary. Days without food and nights without rest. Bitter criticisms of careless generalship. Dogged determination to remain in line, and finally an entire regiment falling exhausted on scant beds of damp hay over sodden fields. Days of tramping through blinding rain; wading through rivers to their waists; provisions ordered left behind with the supposition that others would follow the skirmishing regiment, only to find orders reversed after their departure and without food or shelter, wet, disheartened, cold, hungry, but still with their country's need in their hearts, the Eighth Kansas struggled through Mississippi and Ohio for the better part of a year. Then General Rosecrans took charge of their division of the United States army and matters improved. Later General Grant himself was in command of their army. The battle of Look-out Mountain, Orchard Knob, Chattanooga and Chickamauga, big battles of the war, were some compensation for the unrewarded hardships of those first bitter months. Colonel Martin, editor for many years of the Atchison "Champion" and later governor of Kansas was the Colonel of their regiment. Colonel Martin was a lovable and beloved man. He is one of the rare men to have entered a high position and to have left it with more friends than when he entered.

Captain A. W. Williams, founder of Sabetha, was in charge of company D, and John L. Graham, of Albany, was second lieutenant. On the eighth of February, 205 men were mustered in as veteran volunteers and on the twenty-fifth the regiment reached Atchison on a furlough. The town was the home of Colonel Martin and great honor was done to the returned soldiers. There were bells and banners and flags, and parades, speeches, and banquets, with such food as had not been tasted by a soldier boy for three weary, stressful years.

In the battle of Chickamauga the Eighth had lost 267 men, either killed or wounded, out of a total enlistment of 408. But the Eighth never faltered. It saw more fighting and took part in more battles of note than any other Kansas regiment. They fought under great generals, and every part of the bitterness and bravery, the gall and glory of war became known to them. A last bitter pill was administered to the Eighth Kansas, when the regiment was ordered to Texas shortly before the close of the war. They knew the war was reaching its termination

and felt the order was intensely unjust. But good soldiers obey orders, and the regiment went to Texas, reaching Indianola July 9. Their route took them across a marsh filled with the poison of malaria. Men, worn and weary from the exactions of active warfare, could not overcome the contagion, and dropped on the line of march in complete exhaustion and unquenchable thirst. The brigade did provost duty in San Antonio until November 29, 1865, when it was mustered out after a service of four years, four months and eleven days, having been one of the earliest in the field. One writer in the regiment says that "Had some generals not thought wars were won by men's legs rather than their guns, the Eighth might have been saved 10,750 miles of tramping through the sultry days of summer and the stormy nights of winter, an experience which inclines the Eighth Kansas warriors to consider that the war song 'tramp, tramp, tramp, the boys are marching,' was written for and should have been dedicated to them."

In the great battle of Chickamauga, Nemaha county lost John L. Graham, who had been promoted to sergeant captain from second lieutenant. He was one of the four original settlers of Albany. He was married to Nancy J. Slosson, who, with his two sons, Fred and Charles Graham, has survived him many years, and helped build up this section of Kansa and further the beauty and progress of Ponoma, Cal., where the sons have long been engaged as bankers. Other Chickamauga deaths were those of Sergt. Robert M. Hale, of Sabetha, and William Miller, of Sabetha.

The Ninth Kansas cavalry, of which less than fifty Nemaha county men were members, saw most of its fighting in Missouri and Arkansas, with no little part in guerilla warfare. Corporal Thomas J. Bell was killed by guerillas in the battle of Westport, Mo., June 17, 1863. His home was in Centralia.

The Eleventh Kansas was a regiment of distinguished men. The colonel was Thomas Ewing, the lieutenant colonel was Thomas Moonlight, and the major was Preston B. Plumb. The two latter officers later became famous in Kansas politics. The company was peremptorily ordered to the army of the frontier before their weapons arrived, so Colonel Ewing armed them as best he might with antiquated Prussian guns found in Leavenworth. They marched to Fort Scott, Kans., and when they arrived the following morning they formed a line of battle but found no foe to fight. They marched and counter-marched through Missouri and Arkansas and also engaged the guerillas in battles in southwestern Missouri. It was the Eleventh which was valiantly engaged against General Price. Returning from the Price raid the Eleventh was ordered to Fort Riley to prepare for a campaign against the Indians on the Smoky Hill river. A change of plans sent them to Fort Kearney, a march of 200 miles which they made in twelve days, across bleak prairies in biting winds. Cutting sleet, over roads scarcely distinguishable, was another trial to the flesh of scantily clad men, who

had little food and less ammunition. They arrived at Fort Laramie, where orders were received to await further instructions. The soldiers put in this time in building a complete sod city, remnants of which may be seen today. One thousand miles away, at Fort Leavenworth, were to be found the only cartridges suitable to the carbines with which the Eleventh was armed. Occasional skirmishes with the Indians depleted their scant store. Their horses died and the dangers of the stage route had become so appalling that it was abandoned by passengers. It reached a situation where all energies were expended in protecting the overland mail. But the Eleventh proved adequate. The stage coaches were pushed through on schedule time, the soldiers doing the driving from one station, which they had established, to the next. Guards accompanied the coaches and thus traffic was conducted until reenforcements arrived from Fort Leavenworth.

The Indian restlessness was apparently increasing. Finally a band of 2,000 descended upon a little band of soldiers in a ravine separated from the station. They reached the camp and a battle ensued with surprisingly small loss among the soldiers, but another branch of the regiment under Sergeant Custard was simply cut to pieces by the Indians after the miraculous escape of the company under Major Anderson. The Indians escaped. Shortly afterward the Eleventh was called back to Kansas for discharge from army service. In these four regiments it will be seen that Nemaha county men, all mechanics or farmers, none trained for warfare, saw every branch of service during the terrible war of the Rebellion. Nemaha county men who were not enlisted in Kansas regiments, were almost to a man enlisted in regiments from other States. J. J. Miller, of Sabetha, who settled on the farm north of town in 1859, enlisted in a Missouri regiment. He came home in the fall of 1862, harvested his crops and returned to war as a member of the Thirteenth Kansas. He was but one of seventy Nemaha county soldiers in the Thirteenth Kansas. The Thirteenth was recruited by Cyrus Leland, for many years the dominant figure in Kansas Republican politics. "Cy" Leland's home is in Troy, and it is natural his soldiers were gathered from this section. The regiment responded to President Lincoln's call for men in 1862. Perry Hutchinson, of Marysville, who in later years made his name famous all over the State by his flour, was a captain of company E, of which company John N. Cline, of Centralia, was second lieutenant. Of Company G, William Blackburn, of Vermillion, was captain and Levi Hensel, of Seneca, first lieutenant. John Schilling, of Hiawatha, was captain of Company I, and the entire regiment was formed of men who returned at the close of the war and made northeastern Kansas the garden it now is, from the wilderness of the war times.

The regiment joined General Blunt and assisted in driving General Hindman across the Arkansas River at Van Buren. They fought in the battle of Prairie Grove and finished the winter's campaign. They saw service in the Indian Territory in the Cherokee nation; served under

General Schofield, fought in Arkansas, and performed garrison duty in Springfield, Mo., and outpost duty at Fort Scott. During the month of August, 1863, the Thirteenth Kansas marched 400 miles over Missouri and Arkansas in pursuit of General Cooper and other rebel generals. Guerillas mortally wounded Captain Marion Beeler, and General Bowen was taken prisoner by them when within firing distance of his own lines. Nemaha county lost in this regiment John T. Spencer, of Granada, who died of wounds received at Rosevale, Ark. Thomas B. Cummings was killed by guerillas at Greenfield, Mo. The company was mustered out at Little Rock, Ark., June 26, 1865. Members of the Thirteenth and Ninth regiments were enlisted by George Graham. George R. Benedict, an early settler of Granada, fought with the Thirteenth and was later transferred to the Second Kansas, colored, receiving his discharge as a second lieutenant of the regiment.

John Y. Benfer served with the One Hundred and Twenty-third Ohio volunteers, fighting in the celebrated battle of Winchester, and serving with the Army of the James River. He was taken prisoner three times and was released, the third time only by the surrender of Lee at Appomattox. James L. Brockman, who has served Seneca as city clerk with efficiency, fought with the Thirteenth. James Draney who came to Nemaha county in 1857, served as a teamster during the war in Colonel Taylor's State militia. Elbert Dom Dumont was one of the youngest soldiers who have ever made Nemaha county their home. He was barely sixteen when he joined the Ninth Michigan volunteers and served until 1865. After he left the army he went to school at the seminaries of Ovid and Fulton in New York. He came to Seneca many years after the war closed as an architect and builder. He erected the jail, the Centralia school house, which fire later destroyed, the opera house in Wetmore, and many residences and business blocks. He married Miss Mary Bruner, of Nemaha county. Two sons of E. J. Emery met remarkable deaths during their service in the war. George Emery was drowned in the Ohio river and Edwin was ship-wrecked off the North Carolina coast and presumably drowned.

A. J. Felt, affectionately called, over the State, "Andy," founder of several newspapers, once editor of the Seneca "Tribune" and Lieutenant Governor of Kansas, was a soldier with the Seventh Iowa regiment. He was taken prisoner at Belmont, Mo., and held for nearly a year, and afterward was in a hospital for four months. He rejoined his regiment and was promoted to sergeant. Mr. Felt founded the "Tribune." He was the father-in-law of Senator William H. Thompson. He died about twelve years ago. Dr. Hayes, who has made Seneca his home since 1881, was but seventeen years old when he enlisted with the Indiana volunteers, serving with the famous armies of the Cumberland and Tennessee and fighting at Shiloh, Chattanooga and other famous battles. After the war he returned to his home in Newcastle, Ind., and to school as well. Dr. Hayes having had a taste of adventure, shipped

on the Polaris for the North Pole in 1871. He was picked up by the ship Arctic after two years in the Arctic regions, carried to Scotland and thence made his way home. Since then he has settled down to doctoring, after government work in Washington and a few years at a medical school. Judge Lanham, almost the first Nemaha county resident, served in the army before anyone. He served on picket duty in 1854. He was wounded, but with the beginning of the Civil war he served with the wonderful Eighth Kansas, through until the end, including the terrible march to San Antonio. J. H. Larew was with the Fifth Missouri; J. W. Larimer with the Fourth Iowa, marching with Sherman to the sea; J. L. McGowan enlisted first with the Second Missouri, later raising a Kansas Militia company; N. H. Martin, at sixteen years, enlisted with the Forty-sixth Iowa infantry; Mort Matthews, the venerable county surveyor who has held his job for over thirty years without opposition, was a soldier with the Thirty-fifth Ohio infantry; James Parsons enlisted with the Denver Home Guards, later recruiting a New Mexican regiment, and finally entered the field as second lieutenant of the Second Colorado infantry. Mr. Parsons was the first Nemaha county surveyor and was elected in 1858. R. S. Robbins fought with the Twenty-second Ohio and became a captain. Capt. Lewis Sheeley did not get enough fighting with Missouri regiments and chasing guerillas but stayed with the army in Hancock's veteran reserve corps for a year after the war closed and became colonel of the Kansas State militia. He had lived in Seneca since 1860. Edward Sterling saw plenty of war during the Smoky Hill and Indian raids in which the Eleventh Kansas participated. He was a stage driver in that section during that excitement.

J. F. Clough, founder of the Sabetha "Republican," fought with the Sixty-ninth Ohio. He was shot twice during the battle of Mission Ridge, a bullet piercing his lung. He was a year in a hospital.

Ira F. Collins, one of the brilliant, early day citizens of the county, who today is as fascinating and interesting a man as he was forty years ago, enlisted in the One Hundred and Fourteenth Illinois. He was taken prisoner at Mobile and held in one of the southern prison pens until the close of the war. He had served under Grant at Vicksburg and saw about every side of life in the army. When he was asked recently how many rebels he supposed he had killed, he replied, "Oh, just about as many as they killed of me." Mr. Collins was the first mayor of Sabetha, State representative and State senator. John E. Corwin was a soldier with General Sherman with the Ninety-seventh Indiana infantry. He was in the Grand Review. S. B. Frelove as lieutenant and S. B. McAllister as captain were members of the Plainfield battery that tendered to President Lincoln its services before the firing on Sumter. He fought through the war with the Eighth Illinois cavalry.

J. E. Price, the elevator man for whom the station of Price was named, enlisted in a Pennsylvania regiment. He was wounded at Antietam but when his wound healed he went back into the fray and



stayed until the game was called at Appomattox. He retired a lieutenant, a post given him for conspicuous bravery in manning a gun abandoned at the siege of Richmond where he was a member of the Light Artillery, one of the few Nemahans to be in the artillery. J. E. Price did not forget his military training after his removal to Sabetha. He taught a crowd of young girls a broom drill, the perfection of which, as feminine drillers, is still told with pride. The little station of Price still has standing its two elevators, but the rural free delivery put the post-office out of business. The elevators are used when the season's crops are especially good.

N. S. Smith, for years and years the city attorney of Sabetha until his resignation about a years ago, was a member of the One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois. He was sick, in a hospital in 1865, after fighting through the Atlanta campaign in Tennessee, and was discharged in August, 1865.

Z. Bean, of Wetmore, served under Sheridan in the Fifth Wisconsin regiment. John Dudley came out to Kansas from Illinois to farm. Conditions here were so desolate that he found relief in enlisting as a private in the Third Missouri. He was wounded and taken prisoner, held for several months, freed, again captured, and escaped, swimming across the Saline river, and wearing a pair of pantaloons which he made himself, by ripping the sleeves out of his coat. Returning to Wetmore, farming in Kansas has since seemed a less trying job.

Dr. J. W. Graham, of the Forty-fourth Illinois, has kept among his treasures a paper signed by President Lincoln and countersigned by Secretary Stanton, conveying especial thanks to him for conspicuous bravery and service. Dr. Graham was a physician in the abandoned town of Capioma going later to Wetmore, where he was the first druggist, postmaster, justice of the peace and a good citizen at large.

J. H. Hart was a member of Company I, Thirty-third Iowa, who was present at the fall of Mobile, was transferred to Mexico and Texas, mustered out at Rock Island, Ill., and then came to Nemaha county, settling on a farm near Granada.

Alfred Johns was one of the few Nemahans to have fought with the Fifteenth Kansas. The Fifteenth was recruited by Colonel Jellison to protect the Kansas border after the terrible Quantrill raids, culminating in the Lawrence massacre. The officers were mainly from Leavenworth, Olathe, and that section, with a notable exception in the case of the lieutenant colonel, who was George H. Hoyt, of Boston, Mass. The Fifteenth remained on the job as border protectors until the famous Price raid, when their work in that historical event was conspicuous for its courage.

A. J. McCreery and his three sons served in the Rebellion, all in different regiments. A. J., with the Eleventh Kansas; Alvin, with the Ninth Indiana and William with the Tenth Kansas. The Tenth was a consolidation of the Third and Fourth Kansas regiments and a portion



of the Fifth under the command of Col. W. F. Cloud, of Emporia. This section of the State was well represented in the Tenth. Among the illustrious names is that of Judge Nathan Price, of Troy. He is the father of Mrs. Paul Hudson, wife of the editor of the New Mexican "Herald," who in all the present Mexican difficulties has stuck to his post. The Tenth was called first to the Indian difficulties on the Neosho; they battled with Quantrill, fought at Paririe Grove and finally were detailed to Alton, Ill., to take charge of the military prison there.

Nathaniel Morris, of Wetmore, was a fighter with the Seventh Illinois, a regiment of laurel winning soldiers, who seemed to win wherever they went. Morris became a sergeant. Stories are told of a daring capture made by Morris. Dressed in citizen's clothes he captured a rebel officer. His own horse was stolen by a Quantrill man, and later recovered. Before moving to Nemaha county from Linn county he had taken part in the border war down there. David Scott was a second lieutenant in the Third Iowa, and later a color bearer in the Twenty-second Iowa.

The youngest Nemaha county soldier, and perhaps the youngest in the State, was Daniel Smith, who enlisted with the Thirteenth Kansas at the age of fourteen, in fact, he was not quite fourteen when he enlisted. Nemaha county claims that he is the youngest soldier who ever entered either Union or Confederate armies during the entire Rebellion. He served through the three years of his enlistment, carrying his gun as bravely as any soldier. Returning to Wetmore he made his home there, becoming a plasterer. Daniel Birchfield was a member of the Ninth Kentucky. He was captured on the retreat from Richmond but was exchanged. At the close of the war he drove three oxen across the desolate country to Montana. He prospected and floated down the Yellowstone and Missouri to Omaha in a Mackinaw boat, then settled down in Centralia.

James F. Brock, of Centralia, served with the Twenty-fourth Iowa infantry; George R. Hunt was a member of the Twelfth United States infantry, a regiment which was noted for quelling the draft riots of New York; W. A. Lynn enlisted with the Eighth New York cavalry, which fought at Antietam, Gettysburg, Fredericksburg, Winchester, straight through to Lee's surrender, a very noted regiment. Mr. Lynn says it was to the lieutenant colonel that the flag of rtuce was waved at Ap-pomattox.

Isaiah Stickel was principal of the Union Academy in Sparta, Ill., when the war broke out. He enlisted as a private in the Second Illinois and left the army a lieutenant. At Holly Springs, Miss., the captain of his company was taken prisoner and the conduct fell upon him. With six men in canoes he penetrated the bayous for thirty miles during the Vicksburg campaign pursuing a boatload of rebels and capturing two officers. These are but two instances of his fine work during the war. He came to Centralia in 1866, was the first postmaster of the town and

was in the mercantile business before going into farming and stock raising. J. O. Barnard, of Oneida, served with the Ninety-fourth Illinois. G. H. Johnson, later a postmaster of Corning, was a member of the Eighty-ninth New York infantry; Morrison Mackley with the One Hundred and Seventy-third Ohio; Joseph McCutcheon, with the Sixty-first Pennsylvania; George F. Roots, who came to this country from England in 1850, and to Nemaha county in 1856, enlisted with the Thirty-sixth Illinois. Mr. Roots lived in Illinois before coming to Kansas and it was he who named Illinois creek. He had some knowledge of surveying and laid out much country around Corning.

E. S. Vernon fought with the Seventy-eighth Ohio at the battles of Shiloh, Fort Donelson and all the others of fame; J. C. Warrington with the Thirteenth Iowa; David Bronson, of Granada, with the Fifty-seventh Illinois; A. B. Ellit was with the Second Kansas that routed Quantrill and his men. The three Haigh brothers, James, Urias and Joseph, fought in the Rebellion.

J. O. Hottenstein, of a western Kansas county, was captain of the company in which "Uncle" Dave Wickins, postmaster of Sabetha, served during the Civil war, and he after many years, hunted Mr. Wickins up. Mr. Wickins recalls one incident of their service together very well. There was a skirmish in Mississippi in which Wickins was hit three times and Hottenstein was hit once. Both men were injured at almost the same moment. Hottenstein was shot through the left breast just above the heart. Wickins was shot in the leg, hand and arm. "Let Hottenstein alone, and give other wounded attention; Hottenstein can't live anyway," said an attendant. Hottenstein made a great fuss at this and swore he would live to see the funeral of most of his company. In a few weeks he was well and at the head of his company again. The scar on David Wickin's right hand was caused by the wound in this engagement.

A. H. Hybskmann, seventy-eight, a pioneer, died at his home in Centralia. He was born in Denmark in 1838. He was a Danish soldier in the Danish-Prussian war of 1864. The Danish army being defeated, he came to America in 1867, rather than be drafted into the Prussian army and fight his own country. He came to Centralia in 1870. He operated one of the first steam flour mills in this part of the State.

G. K. Hatch, of Granada, served as a member of the One Hundred and Ninety-fifth Pennsylvania, partook of the pursuit and capture of General Lee and was in at the finish. G. W. Conrad enlisted with the Twenty-eighth Iowa, fought under Sheridan and told great stories of Sheridan's ride. Lewis Logan was with the Twenty-second Iowas; A. J. Morgan with the Fourteenth Indiana, barely escaping capture at Gettysburg. J. F. Randel served six months with the Twenty-second Kansas at the close of the war. F. F. Fisher enlisted with the Twenty-third Wisconsin. J. Hollingsworth, when but fifteen years old, enlisted with the Thirty-third Illinois. These enlistments in regiments of other

States show a remarkable range of citizenship which has gathered together under Nemaha county's banner. Another odd circumstance is that no two were members of the same regiment.

Any attempt to fully handle stories and reminiscences of the war is futile. A three-volume novel could not contain those of Nemaha county veterans. Still there are anecdotes that are irresistible. Uncle Jock Matthews, veteran rural mail carrier, who for twenty years has held the record for shortest time in delivering his mail out of Sabetha, joined the Pennsylvanians in a cavalry regiment. He got on his horse to go to war. He did not even stop to put down his knapsack, let alone drill, or stack arms, or make camp. He was rushed immediately into battle, and the battle was the second Battle of Bull Run. Recently F. A. Gue, a few miles from Sabetha, with Mrs. Gue took an odd journey: a visit to all the prisons where Mr. Gue was held during the war. They visited Chickamauga, where Mr. Gue was captured while taking care of thirty-eight Union soldiers, as assistant surgeon. Mr. Gue spent 526 days in prison during the War of the Rebellion. He was at Libby, Pemberton, Danville, Andersonville, and Salisbury, N. C. The Salisbury prison, merely a stockade, burned down and Mr. Gue was taken to Florence, S. C., where he was kept until near the close of the war. Mr. Gue's health was in as miserable a state as might be imagined after such an experience. He settled near Sun Springs where there is a mineral well, the waters of which restored his health. Lyman Fair marched with Sherman to the sea. He says it was during this famous tramp that the song, "Marching through Georgia," was conceived. The song was started by the men in the ranks and compiled as they marched along. It passed from man to man, line to line, company to company, and regiment to regiment. As they walked along the whole army sang the song on their way to the sea.

There are few wars of prominence of the past century with which Nemaha county has not had more or less connection. Almost every man in the county fought in the War of the Rebellion. Three have been mentioned who fought in the Crimean war. Comes now Herman Althouse, splendid farmer and father of fine sons and daughters, whose father was a soldier under the great Napoleon Bonaparte. Conrad Althouse, father of Herman, was a captain under Napoleon and fought at Piedmont and was with Napoleon at his tragic downfall at Waterloo. Captain Althouse came to America, where he married. His eldest son, Herman, was born in Somerset county, coming west with his parents in the early days of Missouri's settlement. Herman Althouse's wife was Miss Susanna Howard, whose father was one of the original settlers of the famous Platte Purchase in Missouri. Herman Althouse is a pioneer of Nemaha county and for years and years a prominent figure in the eastern part of the county.

C. P. Branigan, of Rock Creek township, whose wife, Miss Rebecca H. Hawkins, was one of the first school teachers in the county, was

driven out of Washington county by Indian raids, with a number of other Nemaha county citizens, who settled in this county where Indians were not rampant. Archibald Moorhead was frequently raided during the border war for food and lodging, but was otherwise uninjured.

W. B. Slosson, who opened the first store in Albany in December, 1861, brought his goods from Salem, Neb. He got the stock most reasonably. The owners of the goods feared they would be seized by border ruffians. Mr. Slosson was one of the organizers of League No. 40 for the purpose of protecting runaway slaves. He saw as much of the border as difficulties as any one in Nemaha county. He barely escaped death at the hands of a border ruffian in Nebraska City, escaping with three runaway slaves by bribing the ferryman to row them to safety across the river. The ferryman was in favor of slavery, which argues well for either the persuasive powers of Mr. Slosson or the speaking power of a little gold. Col. W. S. White, one of the pioneer settlers of Nemaha county, was a personal friend and neighbor of Abraham Lincoln in Illinois.

Three Nemaha county men were members of the famous First Minnesota infantry that saved the day at the battle of Gettysburg; W. H. Dooley, R. Wilson and L. J. Mosher, none of whom are now here. But forty-five men were left when the battle ended out of three hundred who entered with their regimen. Nemaha county's share of the survivors was rather unusual.

An odd circumstance of warlike connections was the finding of grape shot in a sand bank in the eastern section of the county. There was never a battle of any sort fought near Sabetha, within memory of the oldest inhabitant. Several years ago while digging in a sand bank, John Bridgeman found a grape shot of the kind used in the Civil war. The grape shot was found four feet under the sand and above the sand there had been ten feet of soil, so that the shot was some fourteen feet under ground. Its burial there is still an unsolved mystery.

Nemaha county treasures many odd bits of war relics today, half a century after the close of the Civil war. A. G. Rees, a farmer living one mile west of the Sabetha hospital, is an old soldier who makes a trip almost daily on foot from his home to the town of Sabetha. He has kept in fighting trim as a result, or tramping trim, anyway. He carries with him an odd cane fashioned from bits of horn taken from the tips of his favorite cattle, dehorned during his farming life since the close of the war. The cane looks like a stick of polished onyx. Mr. Rees has among his relics a piece of hardtack which he carried through the Civil war. Mr. Rees was with the Ninety-second Illinois mounted infantry. He marched with Sherman to the sea and carried his hardtack on that historic march. Hardtack, to the uninitiated of the present generation and to those of the farmlands who have never been to sea, is merely a name. It is supposedly a biscuit. In reality it is a cracker, big and hard. Mr. Rees's hardtack bears the stamp "Riley," as a certain popular cracker

today bears the stamp "Unneeda." The Rees treasures number more than the cane and hardtack. Saved from the depredations of soldiers, Mrs. Rees has treasured a set of cups and saucers that were among the bridal gifts of her grandparents. She has also a set of silver spoons that were made from shoe buckles of her great-uncl, who presented them to her grandmother. The shoe buckles had also seen war service, and were on a pair of shoes worn by Mrs. Rees's uncle when he came over to America from Ireland over a hundred years ago.

Uncle John Sherrard, of Oneida, wore a relic of ante-bellum days, his beard. Uncle John has not shaved since 1859. Fremont was the Republican, and James Buchanan the Democratic candidate for president. Mr. Sherrard was intensely for Republican principles, and vowed he would not shave until Fremont was president of the United States. Fremont being defeated, he never had another chance for election. Accordingly Mr. Sherrard did not shave.

John Burdge Hoverson, the seventh of the name of John Burdge, by direct descent, has a gun which has been handed down to the eldest son in his family from generation to generation. Burdge's great-great-great-grandfather used the gun in the Revolution. Farther back another Burdge had used it in the Indian wars in the beginning of this nation. It has been in many conflicts, and may yet serve its present owner. The Burdge gun is believed to be the only one in this part of the country which has taken active part in the French and Indian wars.

## CHAPTER XIX.

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### THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

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NEMAHA RESPONDS PROMPTLY—COMPANY K, TWENTY-SECOND REGIMENT  
—EQUIPMENT OF COMPANY—TO CAMP ALGER, VA.—DRILLING—  
EFFICIENCE—FORAGING—CAMP MEAD, PA.—MUSTERED OUT AT FT.  
LEAVENWORTH—CAPTAIN MILLER—NEMAHA ALWAYS TO THE  
FRONT—A SHAM BATTLE.

By Captain Lewis Miller.

Nemaha county responded with customary promptness for the call for volunteers by the President during the Spanish-American war. The company was composed chiefly of Nemaha county men, with a few from the neighboring counties of Brown and Marshall. The company was mustered by Capt. William D. Sherman, and called Company K, of the Twenty-second regiment, Kansas infantry, and was commanded by Col. Hugh H. C. Lindsay. The company was approved by the President April 22, 1898, to serve from the sixteenth day of May, 1898 for two years unless sooner discharged. Captain Robert Hardy was commander of the battalion.

Our company was composed of young men from eighteen to forty-five years of age. The great majority were farmer boys, but we had men from the mines, the shops, the mercantile business and a few professional men. We organized at Seneca, Kans., and our first camp was on the old fair ground in Topeka. Here we drilled without arms or uniforms for about thirty days. Our shelter consisted of the old buildings used for various purposes on the fair grounds, as we had no tents. At the end of a month's occupancy of these quarters we took the train for Camp Alger, Virginia, where we found about 40,000 other troops in camp. Most of them were National Guardsmen, well equipped with uniforms and with Springfield rifles. We, in our regular Kansas garb, were a sight for them. They lined up for miles to see and welcome us. We were heralded in advance as the Kansas cowboy regiment, and as we had some real cowboys in the regiment, we gave them some real exhibitions of the right way of throwing the rope called the lasso and of fast and efficient revolver shooting.

Some of our boys had captured several Kansas coyotes, and we had

them with us. So our regiment was the regiment that attracted attention not only of the camp, but for miles around, including Washington, D. C.

In ten days' time we were uniformed and equipped, and as we had learned to a great extent the company battalion and regiment maneuvers, we were ready to take up the manual of arms. In ninety days' time, we were a well equipped, fairly well drilled regiment, and were anxious to go to the front at any time. In fact we had received word to be ready at any moment to embark for Cuba, when on the morning of the fourth of July the word went through the camp like an electric wave of the sinking of Cervera's fleet by Admiral Schley and we knew it would soon be over. The camp was in a turmoil. Forty thousand voices were cheering or cursing their luck of not having had a chance to get into the thick of the fray. Some of the men actually shed tears of disappointment of not having had their fling.

We were in the brigade with the One Hundred and Fifty-ninth Indiana, and the Third New York, both old National Guard regiments. It was interesting to see with what interest and ardor our boys bent every effort to become as efficient as they. We believe that when we were mustered out there was no better regiment among the 200,000 volunteers than the Twenty-second Kansas.

Our division of 10,000 men under General Graham, broke camp and marched to Camp Thoroughfare Gap, Va., near Manassas. This was a march of sixty miles. It rained all day and night while we were on this march. It was while on this tramp that we heard the sad news of the death of our Captain Sherman at Fort Myers Hospital. It cast a gloom over the entire command. Provisions were short on this march. The streams were swollen; the roads wretched. Our provision train could not keep up. In many cases we stripped ourselves of clothing, hung our clothes on the points of our bayonets and forded the streams. There was always that courage and cheer, characteristic of young Americans. We arrived at Broad Run Camp the third day out. Some of our command had not had any food for thirty-six hours.

A certain amount of foraging is expected and done. But our regimental band was a little timid and took their troubles up with the colonel, who was a Civil war veteran. He informed them that "anyone who permitted themselves to starve in a land of plenty should either be classed as cripples or dam fools." They presented the colonel the following morning with a fresh pork roast with their compliments, and informed him that there were no cripples in the band anyway. We remained at Camp Thoroughfare Gap for thirty days. We were then ordered by train to Camp Mead, Pa. After six weeks' encampment there we were ordered to Fort Leavenworth to be mustered out. A number of Company K men enlisted in the regular army and saw service in Manila and China.

Before Captain Miller, author of the foregoing story of Nemaha county's service in our last war, entered the army he had been wounded severely by Captain Daniel Cupid. When he went to Topeka with his company as Lieutenant Miller the wound was found so severe that he was given a day's absence to get home for the only cure. But it took great hustling to carry out the orders of Captain Cupid when he reached Sabetha. Mr. Miller had planned to go from Sabetha to the county seat, Seneca, to secure a marriage license to marry Miss Lou Miller. But fate has a way of interfering with Captain Cupid's plans, even as Cupid himself has a way of stepping into the well-ordered lives of folks and making war generally. The Grand Island train, which was to take Mr. Miller to Seneca, was delayed for five hours by a wreck. It was before the day of automobiles, and only the telegraph could be requisitioned that Captain Cupid might not longer delay the movements of the Army of the United States. The license was telegraphed for, and the permission telegraphed back for the wedding to take place. The knot was tied by Rev. Ford and the young soldier and his bride driven to the station to join the army in Topeka. But while waiting for the train, up dashed a messenger boy with the license, which had come on the return train from Seneca, and on the depot platform, while the train was pulling in, the marriage service was said for a second time, with the license in hand. Lieutenant Miller and his bride, with Captain Cupid in charge, gloating over the double knot he had tied, left for Topeka. Lieutenant Miller was made captain upon the death of Captain Sherman. The two Miller boys are named for the colonel of his regiment and the captain of the battalion.

Nemaha county has always gone to the front in war, literally, if it was the war of her own land, and financially if the war was in other countries. Nemaha county was one of the first to respond to the cry for help in the European war now raging. Ever since the cry came over the waters, "Help the Belgians," people everywhere have planned the best way to help aside from sending money. Mrs. Dr. Shelton of Oneida originated a scheme whereby each one could contribute something. She sent out thirty-six notes to as many ladies of the town and vicinity asking each to contribute two or more quilt blocks to be made into comforts for the Belgians. The ladies were each to ask some one else to help. All were to be sent to Mrs. Shelton on a certain date. All responded willingly and on a day appointed a number of ladies came in and sewed the blocks together, ready for tacking and finishing. On the eleventh they obtained the hall and completed eight large comforts and three for the babies. The cotton was paid for by a collection taken up among the ladies. Henry Wikoff was asked to box them up and ship them to Topeka in time to be sent on the Kansas Relief Train that left on the thirteenth, but when he went to procure the boxes, one was too small, the other was too large and as they were the only ones in town at all suitable, he decided to put them in the larger box and then he found



that it lacked a third of being full. Not to be outdone they went to some of the Odd Fellows who had contributed \$20 from their lodge and they all decided to buy enough blankets from Roy Smothers to fill the box. Fourteen blankets and two comforts were added to the list the ladies had made and the box was filled. All felt satisfied with their work. Dinner was served in the hall and the ladies' husbands came to eat with them. It was a jolly crowd and all were happy in the knowledge of having done something for others if it were only a little.

Nemaha county was and it thoroughly imbued with patriotism and is always first to respond to a call to arms. Nemaha county sent all her able-bodied men to the Civil war. She had a complete company in the Spanish-American war. She responded immediately to the call for help from the Belgians, and she is preparing a company if needed, in the possible event of war with Europe. Therefore it may be recalled with interest the naturalness with which Nemaha county in the eighties fought a sham battle.

Orlando Fountain was commander of a Sabetha army which fought a sham battle against a Seneca army. Seneca represented the Union army and Sabetha represented the Confederates. Colonel Troughton, M. D., and Captain R. M. Emery, of Seneca, commanded the Union army, and Orlando Fountain, who had been a major in the regular army, commanded the rebels. Ham Wasmund carried the flag for Sabetha. Frank Herzog had a short gun and two revolvers. John Dawson, now a Grand Island conductor, carried Squire Hook's cannon which was a chunk of steel sixteen inches long and consisted of little more than a hole in the center. Dr. Lyons played the fife and Ernest Holtzschue the drum. George Cassidy spent most of his time leading Major Fountain's horse. The Sabetha army stopped in George Donaldson's orchard long enough to clean it out and then swung around to Dan Stonebarger's melon patch. The Seneca Federals agreed to capture the Sabetha rebels. There were 5,000 people at the race track where the battle scene was to take place. The Sabetha rebels, having found good eating in making the detour, were very slow. The Union forces went out a short distance to reconnoiter and see what had become of the enemy. Whereupon the rebels suddenly appeared in the rear and took possession of the forts and batteries, thereby reversing the results of the war between the North and the South. One of the Union soldiers was so angry that he kicked the head out of Holtzschue's drum.

## CHAPTER XX.

### AGRICULTURE.

MARVELOUS RESOURCES—IMPROVED METHODS—EVOLUTION IN CROP RAISING—LIVE STOCK—COMPARATIVE STATISTICS, 1875 TO 1915—INCREASE OF LAND VALUES—SCIENTIFIC FARMING—IMPROVED STOCK—PROMINENT BREEDERS—BEEF CATTLE—MODEL FARMS—IRRIGATION—STATES AND COUNTRIES REPRESENTED—SURVEY OF COUNTY—CHEESE AND BUTTER—OTHER STATISTICS—THE TRACTOR AS A LABOR SAVER—A BIG GRAIN BUSINESS.

The romancers who conceived the Arabian Nights told stories that are immortal because of their marvel and magic. The Bible scribe thought he was going some when he advised two blades of grass where one grew before. The great corporations startle the financial world when their volume of business doubles or shares advance ten or fifteen per cent. But what of an institution, practically without a manufacturing smoke-stack, that makes eight dollars grow where one grew before? That's Nemaha county history. What of a mystic conjurer who mixed sunshine, air, water and dust and lifted four million dollars out of his hat in any year in real money that you could count and make eighteen thousand people happy ever after! What of a factory that laid off ten per cent of its hands and increased its production twenty-five per cent! This is the story of Nemaha county's population and crop returns from 1910 to 1915.

What is the answer of it all? Well, improved farm machinery is one explanation. Better farming methods is another. Higher prices may as well be included as a reason also. The records for forty years, from 1875 to 1915, show the elimination of some crops, the introduction of others. That span of forty years records the steady increase in cultivated acres. It is a fascinating study.

Let us go back to 1875. Here we find field crops producing an aggregate of \$696,006.73 in one year. Jump forty years to 1915 and the field crops were worth \$3,961,731.61. And there were not so many more people here in 1915 than toiled in 1875. The 1875 population was 7,104. The 1915 population was 18,309. The increase in population hasn't compared with the increase in production.

Back in 1875 Nemaha county produced only a little more than a

million and a half bushels of corn and got twenty-five cents a bushel for it. The corn crop in 1875 was worth \$387,513, a mere pittance compared with the 1915 crop, which paid \$2,096,121.04. The corn production in 1875 was 1,550,052 bushels grown on 36,906 acres. In 1915 the acres had grown to 108,946, and the production totaled 4,031,002 bushels. In 1915 Nemaha county was the fourth county in Kansas in the production of King Corn, the reigning monarch in agriculture.

The records back in 1875 show a decided difference in crops grown from those of 1915. They raised sorghum for syrup in those days, and that year produced nearly 34,000 gallons. Tobacco appears in the list of products also. Broom corn was a regular crop, too. No doubt the county manufactured its own brooms. There was produced in the county nearly 800,000 pounds of cheese in 1875. The industry has since died, which should be a matter of regret. We made 270,275 pounds of butter in 1875. Our butter production in 1915 was valued at \$69,000. But we sold butter fat in the form of cream to creameries amounting to \$133,833.

The poultry and eggs of the early days were not kept account of, as they are these days, so we don't know the value of the crop in 1875. In 1915, however, our poultry and eggs sold for \$204,491. Nemaha county ranks twelfth in county production of poultry and eggs in Kansas. We are tenth in animals slaughtered and sold for slaughter and seventeenth in alfalfa production. Alfalfa is an important crop that has come in the evolution of the county. It does not appear in the crops of 1875. The year 1884 agricultural report does not mention alfalfa.

But in 1915 we have 24,265 acres in alfalfa, which crop was valued at \$454,968.75, practically one-half million dollars. This new member of the crop family is many times the most valuable forage crop recorded in the agricultural reports. Alfalfa is third in valuable crops in the county, being outranked only by corn and wheat. Truly, alfalfa has been a Nemaha county mortgage lifter.

It is interesting to note the steady increase in the acreage on which crops are produced. There are 460,800 acres in the county. In 1875 crops were produced on 72,370 of these acres. Ten years later the acreage for crops had grown to 269,755. Thirty years later than that, 1915, the soil was producing money crops on 388,798 acres. That is climbing toward capacity acreage, but it does not touch capacity in crop production, because better farming methods will increase the bushels of grain and tons of forage per acre.

The early day reports do not give the value of the live stock marketed, so we have to come along to 1884 for a comparison. In 1884 the animals slaughtered or sold for slaughter were valued at \$735,467. In 1915 our animals slaughtered and sold for slaughter reached the enormous value of \$1,224,318. The poultry and eggs, butter, cream, honey, wool clip, etc., produced in addition to the above, brings the total value up to the sum of \$1,642,605. Pretty big business we are doing, isn't it?

This sum can not, of course, rightfully be added to the crops produced, as much of the crops produced was marketed by means of live stock. The horses, mules, milch cows, other cattle, sheep and hogs remaining in the county numbr about 90,000 head and reach a value of \$4,00,000.

It is a colossal business we are doing, a business that will grow, a business that will in time occupy the hands of many times our population with a proportionate increase in production.

A few tables are reproduced herewith for comparison. Endless, interesting conclusions can be drawn from them. And perhaps in forty years from now the record of 1915 will seem as provincial and antiquated as does that of 1875 in the present day.

#### ACREAGE, AVERAGE YIELDS, PRODUCT AND VALUE OF PRINCIPAL CROPS IN 1875.

Crops	Acreage	Average Yield	Product	Price	Value of Product
Winter wheat, bushels..	1,753.25	20.00	35,065	\$ .98	\$ 34,363.70
Rye, bushels.....	1,023.00	18.00	18,414	.60	11,048.40
Spring wheat, bushels..	5,575.75	10.00	55,757	.78	43,490.46
Corn, bushels.....	36,906.00	42.00	1,550,052	.25	387,513.00
Barley, bushels.....	503.00	28.00	14,084	1.25	17,605.00
Oats, bushel .....	5,325.45	32.00	186,391	.25	46,597.75
Buckwheat, bushels....	1,146.25	20.00	22,925	.95	21,778.75
Potatoes, Irish, bushels.	539.50	117.00	62,770	.28	17,575.60
Sweet potatoes, bushels..	37	145.00	54	.90	48.60
Sorghum, gallons.....	218.00	110.00	33,980	.40	9,592.00
Castor beans, bushels..	23.00	13.00	299	1.10	328.90
Flax, bushels.....	1,512.27	8.00	12,098	1.05	12,702.90
Tobacco, pounds.....	3.50	680.00	2,380	.07½	178.50
Broom corn, pounds....	52.75	775.00	40,881	.07	2,861.67
Millet, tons.....	1,804.75	2.75	4,963	5.00	24,815.00
Timothy, tons.....	121.25	1.00	121	6.00	726.00
Clover, tons.....	27.25	2.75	75	6.00	450.00
Prairie, tons.....	15,835.00	1.25	19,794	3.25	64,330.50
Totals .....	72,370.34	2,028.75	2,060,103	\$29.18½	\$696,006.73

#### ACRES, PRODUCT AND VALUE OF FIELD CROPS, NEMAHA COUNTY, IN 1884.

	Acres	Product	Value
Winter wheat, bushels.....	5,228	135,928	\$ 65,245.44
Spring wheat, bushels.....	1,697	16,070	6,448.60
Rye, bushels.....	1,482	36,840	12,894.00

Corn, bushels .....	95,690	4,784,500	956,900.00
Barley, bushels.....	111	2,775	1,054.50
Oats, bushels.....	15,729	471,870	94,374.00
Buckwheat, bushels.....	51	561	364.65
Irish potatoes, bushels.....	1,354	169,250	59,237.50
Sweet potatoes, bushels.....	23	2,300	1,840.00
Castor beans, bushels.....	1	8	10.40
Flax, bushels.....	463	4,167	4,167.00
Rice corn, bushels.....	12	264	100.32
Sorghum, gallons.....	439	30,730	13,828.50
Cotton, pounds.....	25	7,000	560.00
Tobacco, pounds.....	3	2,550	255.00
Broom corn, pounds.....	131	91,700	3,209.50
Millet, tons.....	2,994	7,485	33,682.50
Timothy, tons.....	7,288	12,754	70,147.00
Clover, tons.....	2,954	8,123	42,645.75
Other tame grasses, tons.....	899	1,708	8,540.00
Prairie under fence, tons.....	132,821	166,026	498,078.00
Total .....	269,755	.....	\$1,873,582.66

#### ACREAGE, PRODUCT AND VALUE OF FIELD CROPS IN NEMAHA COUNTY IN 1915.

	Acres	Product	Value
Winter wheat, bushels.....	67,779	813,345	\$723,877.05
Rye, bushels.....	1,537	27,666	21,302.82
Corn, bushels.....	108,946	4,031,002	2,096,121.04
Barley, bushels.....	80	2,080	936.00
Oats, bushels .....	33,696	673,920	242,611.20
Buckwheat, bushels.....	1	12	12.00
Irish potatoes, bushels.....	1,220	103,700	65,331.00
Sorghum .....	1,385	.....	17,296.50
Speltz, bushels .....	20	520	234.00
Milo maize, bushels.....	129	.....	1,473.00
Kafir corn, bushels.....	2,561	.....	48,889.50
Feterita .....	481	.....	7,965.50
Jerusalem corn.....	2	.....	32.00
Millet, tons.....	2,663	5,992	23,968.00
Tame hay, tons.....	29,860	19,968	179,712.00
Prairie hay, tons.....	114,150	9,600	76,800.00
Alfalfa, tons.....	24,265	72,795	454,968.75
Cow peas, tons.....	23	35	201.25
Total .....	388,798	.....	\$3,961,731.61

## NEMAHA POPULATION IN 1875, 1884 AND 1915.

	1875	1884	1915
Capioma .....	533	813	722
Harrison .....	367	707	746
Goff .....	...	...	383
Nemaha .....	408	601	471
Richmond .....	808	828	781
Seneca .....	...	1,905	1,961
Washington .....	302	643	610
Bern .....	...	...	283
Clear Creek .....	475	628	507
Home .....	655	670	504
Centralia .....	...	401	629
Neuchatel .....	347	584	473
Rock Creek .....	1,135	1,348	665
Sabetha .....	...	1,216	1,891
Wetmore .....	422	590	562
Wetmore City .....	...	405	512
Granada .....	408	706	659
Illinois .....	363	718	630
Corning .....	...	...	422
Red Vermillion .....	511	521	510
Valley .....	370	...	...
Tilman .....	...	816	603
Oneida .....	...	...	243
Mitchell .....	...	696	660
Marion .....	...	717	736
Adams .....	...	509	624
Reilly .....	...	467	578
Bermick .....	...	...	684
Center .....	...	...	581
Totals .....	7,104	16,579	18,699

In 1884 the finest farming land in Nemaha county could be bought for \$20 an acre. Uncle John Mowder, probably the shrewdest financier and best judge of farmland in the county at that time, as he is today, sold a quarter section southwest of Sabetha to Richard Bottger, of Cowan, Union county, Pennsylvania, for \$3,600. This is \$22.50 an acre. Mr. Bottiger profited exceedingly on the investment and about twelve years ago he retired and moved to Sabetha. The farm today is worth \$150 an acre, if, indeed, it could be bought at that price. Just to show how prosperity has swung to the benefit of the agricultural community, money in 1884 was nine per cent. on farm loans. Today it is six per cent. Lyman B. Lilly, in this same year of 1884 sold his eighty

acre farm north of Albany to J. H. Kimmel for \$1,800 and thought he was doing mighty well. Previously he had homesteaded the place. About the same time he sold forty acres at Albany to Ira B. Dye for \$800, or \$20 an acre. You couldn't touch any of this land now for more than five times the price.

Thirty years ago the farmers hadn't learned to make profits in farming. Say what you please about the agricultural colleges, but their educational matter has done much to revolutionize farming methods and make the farm pay. Early in the eighties wild grasses were the rule. Jacob Miller attracted a good deal of attention because he had fifty acres of tame grass. Afterward he increased his acreage until there were 130 acres in tame grass. All of which was the wonder of the community. It was a long time afterward that alfalfa crept into the agricultural esteem and what a fight the agricultural colleges had to make alfalfa a convincing crop! It had to pay off a vast amount of mortgages and save a vast amount of farmers from ruin in order to make a demonstration that demonstrated. In the year this book is being written the issue is good roads. The agricultural colleges show that the cost of hauling farm loads over bad roads is among the heaviest penalties the farmer has to pay. But the farmers are beginning to see the point and every year finds the roads better and the profits of the farmer increasing. The paved road is only a question of time.

Nemaha county has begun to get back in the live stock game. For the last decade or two stock raising seemed to be on the wane, and this was regretted because of the inevitable depreciation of the soil. Just within the last year or two the farmers are raising cattle and sheep. They are keeping more hogs. So great is the impetus for swine raising that an extensive hog cholera control movement conducted by both State and county government has been started here. Hog cholera has been a thorn in the side of the farmer in his agricultural pursuits. It has been absolutely necessary to control hog cholera in order to make farming a consistently successful institution. The live stock game can now be played with completeness and without danger of disaster. A county farm bureau will be opened at the county seat, Seneca, and the whole scheme of agriculture put on a scientific and business basis. Dairying, proven to be one of the best paying pursuits on the farm, is growing rapidly in importance. Sheep raising is being pursued so profitably that a group of farmers in Nemaha county have organized an association. The production of beef cattle for the market is assuming its old-time importance.

Pure bred livestock of all kinds is in the ascendancy. John McCoy, one of the first to see the need of providing the farmer with the best beef cattle, now sees his labor bearing fruit in the ever-increasing high grade fat cattle going to market. Ira Collins, who was in the thick of the live stock fray in the early days, is now pushing the dairy type of cattle. His farm at Rock Creek, in which he has been interested for nearly half a century, is producing some of the finest Holsteins in the entire West.

The best Holsteins that money can buy have been brought to the Collins farm, chosen from world's record ancestors for milk production. Mr. Collins has always been one of the forces in the community. He was the first mayor of Sabetha, represented this district in the legislature and is always a man of affairs.

So we find Nemaha county harking back to the live stock of the early days, but under scientific conditions and methods which make the industry more profitable.

There are many herds of fine cattle over the county and there are several breeders whose fame have reached far beyond the borders of the county and State. Thomas J. Meisner, of Berwick township, has one of the finest droves of pure bred Poland China swine in Kansas which he has developed during past years. Mr. Meisner has achieved remarkable success in his avocation and is a director of the Kansas Poland China Breeders Association and is also a director of the International Poland China Association.

M. G. Hamm, of Ontario, Kans., proprietor and manager of the famous Rosary Stock Farm, is one of the most successful breeders of Percheron horses in the State and has produced many fine show animals. He is a specialist in the breeding of Scotch Top Shorthorns and has added many good herd leaders to herds in Jackson and other counties. Mr. Hamm is organizer of the Kansas Duroc Jersey Breeders Association and assisted in organizing the Kansas Draft Horse Association.

William Winkler, of Mitchell township, is a breeder and a successful exhibitor of Poland China swine which have won many first prizes at fairs and stock shows. L. H. Gaston of the same township is a breeder of shorthorn cattle which have received many awards for their excellence.

Charles W. Ridgway, of Adams township, is a fancier of fine Percheron horses and pure bred Poland China swine and is president of the Kelly Draft Horse Company, importers of Belgian and Percheron horses. Peter P. Waller, of Adams township, has a fine herd of Holsteins started and is destined to make a name for himself as a breeder. Howard Thompson, of Richmond township, is a breeder and fancier of Ayrshires. Henry Rottingham, of the same township, has long been a breeder of Percheron horses. Peter H. Reed, of Reilly township, has a large herd of pure blood Polled Angus cattle. His neighbor, Albert Swartz, prefers Holsteins and has developed a fine herd.

D. N. Price, of Center township, is one of the pioneer breeders of the county and has achieved both fame and fortune with pure bred Shorthorns. Mr. Price has been one of the most successful breeders in Kansas during past years and the product of his skill has gone to all parts of the Middle West.

Emil R. Burky of Capioma township is a breeder of Percheron and Clydesdale horses. Samuel Johnson, of Gilman township, is specializing in Morgan horses and Aberdeen Angus cattle. Other breeders are C. H. Wempe, Jerome McQuaid, and Mr. Bergen, of Richmond township.



The tendency of the times is toward the pure bred varieties of live stock and many of the younger farmers of the county are beginning their herds with the best live stock obtainable.

But Nemaha county was a wonder for its stream of beef cattle that poured into packing houses three or four decades ago. From one shipping place alone in one week in Nemaha county there were sent to the city market 374 head of fat cattle, weighing 486,610 pounds. Those cattle ranged around 1,300 pounds each, not a bad record for those days of all kinds of breeds fattened under all kinds of feeding conditions. One shipper, T. K. Masheter, had seventy-five head which averaged 1,451 pounds. Another, J. M. Boomer, had seventy head which averaged 1,410 pounds. From this same shipping point during the month of December there were shipped to market forty-one cars of corn; two cars of rye; thirteen cars of hogs; one car of horses and one car of hides. J. T. Brady and T. B. Collins, then of Nemaha county, claim the honor of having been the first men in Kansas to begin stock fattening on a large scale. They commenced in 1867 and in 1868 fed 125 head of cattle. In 1869, 800 head were fattened and sold to Illinois drovers. Then began the big cattle feeding business of Brady & Collins. For ten years they annually handled from 2,000 to 3,000 head of cattle. In 1880 Mr. Collins bought a farm south of Seneca and in June of that year built the largest livery barn in the county. It was 32x80 feet, with sheds for twenty horses. Later, of course, he lost the record, because now Nemaha county has many big barns.

The model farm of three decades ago and the model farm of today! What a contrast! First let us look at the model farm of yesterday. E. L. Rosenberger, who came to Nemaha county from Harveysville, Pa., had what was considered a model farm and equipment and home. The farm was in Rock Creek township. It was divided as follows: thirty acres of prairie grass for pasture; thirty acres in tame grass; wheat and oats, each ten acres; house, barn and fruit, twenty acres; corn, sixty acres. Mr. Rosenberger kept twenty-five to thirty head of cattle; 175 to 200 hogs; horses sufficient to do the farm work. The first improvement made by Mr. Rosenberger was the erection of a good, substantial residence for that day. The house was 20x32 feet, two stories high and basement below. It was situated in the center of the twenty acres, set apart for yards, farm buildings and fruits of various kinds. To the west and north of his house he had fruit trees of nearly every variety. He had a cabbage patch of 2,000 plants. He had one-fourth acre of beets and celery. The vineyard had 200 vines. He had 1,000 each of raspberry. For shade trees he grew the catalpa for a windbreak. His hog pens were all partitioned and had good floors and roof, where he did his feeding.

On the farm of today a good proportion would be in corn as was Mr. Rosenberger's. But there would be little, if any, prairie grass for pasture. At least this much would be in alfalfa—thirty acres. Instead of ten

acres of wheat and oats, there would probably be at least forty acres to the two crops. There would not be so much land devoted to orchards. Today fruit raising is considered a business apart. Of the small fruits there would be strawberries only enough for the family's use. The same is true of the garden. One of the out buildings on the place of today is a garage for the automobile. A feature of the farm, unthought of in Mr. Rosenberger's time, is the silo. The modern farm would have one or more silos. The modern farm would be equipped with machinery for every operation, and riding machinery at that and we believe tomorrow that most of the farm work will be done by motor, day after tomorrow, perchance, by electric motor.

The home of the modern farm of today is heated by furnace and all the rooms are warm. The house and all outbuildings are lighted by electricity. The house has running water, hot and cold, and a complete bathroom. The farmer's wife is beginning to come into her own. Her floors are of hard, polished wood, as is all the interior finish. She does not make as much butter as she used to. She can market her butter in the form of cream separated mechanically with a cream separator. Mrs. Clayte Lewis, wife of a modern Nemaha county farmer, said at a party recently that she would give up her piano before she did her cream separator. But the modern farmer's wife today has both separator and piano with a Victrola for good measure. The same electric lighting plant that lights the house and outbuildings can operate the sewing machine, the washing machine, the separator, etc.

Sabetha tried out an irrigating farm scheme once that is believed to have been the only irrigating project in this corner of Kansas. J. A. Robertson owned four and a half acres at the edge of Sabetha. He had been a market gardener for many years. He greatly increased his income through the irrigating plan. With a gasoline engine and a deep well he irrigated his ground. He irrigated a small patch of strawberry ground on which were 400 plants and received \$40 more profit from his crop. The patch he did not irrigate in this dry year produced but a dollar's worth. His power cost him three cents an hour. A profitable business resulted from the plan. It is one that has not been tried out in this section, but as the value of farm land rises and it is more difficult to secure large farming tracts, this fruit and garden scheme will doubtless grow.

The Kansas hen has done as well in Nemaha county as anywhere, and Mrs. Harry Carpenter, of the Woodlawn neighborhood, thinks hers have done a little better than anyone's. Mrs. Carpenter was a school teacher, who married a farmer. The first summer of their marriage, one of her hens walked into the yard one day followed by twenty-two little chicks, newly hatched and able bodied. Mrs. Carpenter was amazed. She had not set the hen, but the hen had laid the eggs in the wood from time to time, and secretly went to her private home and sat on the twenty-two eggs, until she had a real family.

The changes of forty years in Nemaha county are astonishing and in

the archives of the State Historical Society and State Board of Agriculture are the records of what Nemaha county was in 1875. The 720 square miles in Nemaha county remain as in the beginning, but from that point contrasts begin. In 1875 the population of Nemaha county to the square mile was only 9.86. Going back to 1860 there were in the county 2,436 persons. In 1870 there were 7,339 people here. The increase in the ten years from 1860 to 1870 was therefore 4,903. The population in 1875 was 7,104. Thus there was a decrease in five years from 1870 to 1875 of 235, but within the fifteen years there was an increase in population of 4,668. Times were mighty hard in the early seventies. There was the grasshopper year and the financial panic and general distress, and presumably some of the faint hearted went back East to the home folks, or farther west where the star of empire takes its way.

Another interesting fact about the county in its early history is that Germany furnished its largest foreign population. The nativity of those in the county in 1875 follows: Born in the United States, 5,026; in Germany, 372; in Ireland 212; in England and Wales 157; in British America 144; in southern Europe 101; in Scotland 46; in Sweden, Norway and Denmark 45; in France 39; in northern Europe 38; in Italy 21; in countries not specified 3. The county had more men than women. The males numbered 3,696; the females 3,408. Those early settlers in Nemaha county came mostly from Illinois. In this same year, 1875, there were 1,185 of these Illinois emigrants. Missouri came second with 676; third, Iowa with 601; fourth, Ohio, number, 443; Indiana took fifth place with 426. The county was populated from other States as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 5; California, 11; Colorado, 1; Connecticut, 19; Georgia, 25; Kentucky, 6; Louisiana, 1; Maine, 8; Maryland, 2; Massachusetts, 43; Michigan, 21; Minnesota, 22; Mississippi, 2; Nebraska, 92; Nevada, 14; New Hampshire, 17; New Jersey, 5; New York, 317; Pennsylvania, 235; South Carolina, 2; Tennessee, 20; Texas, 8; Vermont, 17; Virginia, 27; West Virginia, 7; Wisconsin, 346; District of Columbia and the territories, 15. Many of Nemaha county's citizens came direct from Europe here. These are included in the figures previously given, showing nativity of the county's citizens. So those coming direct from Germany number 61; from Ireland 10; from England and Wales, 76; from Scotland 29; from Sweden, Norway and Denmark 8; from France 1; from northern Europe 5; others, southern Europe 50; from British America 88.

The business of rearing families was the most important early industry. There were in Nemaha county in 1875, 2,015 Kansas born children; pretty good within twenty years' occupation. In this same year 1,454 persons were engaged in agriculture, 81.03 per cent. Nearly everybody was busy growing crops. There were only ninety or ninety-five per cent. engaged in professional and personal pursuits and in trade and transportation eighty-four, or eighty-four and seven-tenths per cent. We started out promisingly in manufactures. One hundred and sixty persons

were engaged in various manufacturing establishments, eight and nine-tenths per cent. A brick plant at Seneca is about all we have now in that line.

A survey of the county in 1875 shows bottom land ten per cent; upland ninety per cent.; forest, three per cent.; prairie land and rolling land, 90 per cent.; forest, 3 per cent.; prairie land 97 per cent. The average width of bottoms was a mile. This was the land that was farmed in the early days. They have since found the upland to possess productivity undreamed of at that time. In those days the average width of timber belts was half a mile. There grew along these timbered belts, hickory, oak, hackberry, elm, walnut, cottonwood, ash, locust, and sycamore. Much of this wood has gone for lumber and stovewood. Hundreds of cars of walnut have been shipped to Europe to decorate castles and palaces of kings, princes and potentates of the Old World. The cut over lands are now producing crops that during this year of bitter European war, are feeding the Old World.

The Fourth Kansas Agricultural report issued in 1875 gives the principals streams as follows: The Nemaha river flows north twenty miles through the center of the county; its tributaries are Deer creek, flowing west; Harris, northwest; Illinois, southeast; Grasshopper, southeast; Pony Creek, east; Rock Creek, northeast; Vermillion, west; French, south; and Turkey Creek, east. The county is very well supplied with springs and good well water is obtained at a depth of from thirty-five to forty feet. Small quantities of coal have been found along the Nemaha and its tributaries. Veins, from four to thirteen inches in thickness, have been mined; their depth below the surface is from six to twenty feet; quality medium. Very little coal mining has been developed and its use is altogether local.

The cheese manufactured in 1870 totaled 28,285 pounds; in 1875, 798,850 pounds.

In writing the history of Nemaha county we have come across a dozen cheese factories scattered around. In fact one of the history jokes is that cheese grew in every community except Neuchatel, the place where the cheese ought to grow, if names count for anything. Today there is not a cheese factory in Nemaha county, and personally we know of none in northeastern Kansas. Perhaps this is the reason: It doesn't look as if Atchison is to have a cheese factory as has been proposed. Martin Jensen has been looking it up and has met with little encouragement from scientific men who are familiar with conditions. They say the climate in Kansas is not adapted to cheese making and that cool nights the year around are very essential.

Butter manufactured in 1870 was 200,460 pounds; in 1875, 270,275. The number of horses in the county in 1870 was 3,307; in 1875 the number had increased to 4,975. The mules and asses in 1870 numbered 156, in 1875 there were 276 of the four legged ones. The cattle in 1870 numbered 9,221. They jumped in number in five years to 19,242, the increase



WHEAT HARVEST SCENE IN NEMAHA COUNTY.



being 10,041. There was a sentiment for sheep in 1870 and that year flocks numbered 3,591 head. In 1875 the number had decreased to 1,171, the decrease being 2,420. The farmers had concluded that this was not a sheep country, but of late years they are learning their mistake and sheep raising has been in the ascendancy. A sheep growers association organized in 1916, promises big things in the sheep line. Going back to 1870, the swine numbered 4,119 head. Five years later the hogs had increased to 5,471.

The prairie schooner that sailed to Kansas in the early days always had its hound dogs. They were about the only luxury the poor man of that day had. And everybody was poor. Instead of hound dogs today we have automobiles. But the dog census of 1875 showed 1,575 canines. There were more dogs than sheep. Probably it was the dogs that killed the sheep industry. In 1875 those 1,575 dogs killed 149 sheep that the farmers knew, and probably that many more were not reported. There were wolves in those days, too. They killed 134 sheep in that year, almost as many as the dogs. So there were nearly 300 sheep in one year lost because of the wolves and dogs.

Here are some more 1875 facts—Horticulture: Acres of nurseries, 9; orchards, 1,525; vineyards, 20 $\frac{1}{4}$ ; number of stands of bees, 96; pounds of honey, 107; wax, 30 pounds; fences, stone, 8,958, cost \$21,275; rail fences, 259,322 rods, cost \$350,074; board fence, 85,691 rods, cost \$109,256; wire fence, 35,300 rods, cost \$26,475; hedge fence, 56,181 rods, cost \$25,843; total rods of fence, 445,453; total cost, \$532,924. The waterpower was limited, two mills being but partially supplied.

Manufactures in 1875—In Nemaha township, steam sawmills; Richmond township, steam flouring mill; in Home township, steam flouring mill. A brewery was listed at Seneca in 1875. A steam gristmill is listed for Rock Creek township the same year. There was a cheese factory in Home township.

Banks in 1875—The banking house of Lappin & Scrafford was at Seneca. Sabetha had the Exchange Bank, and there was another bank, the name of which was not reported. The aggregate capital of the three banks was \$15,744, not a drop in the bucket for the financial institutions in the county today. Business houses of the principal towns: Agricultural, two; books, periodicals and stationery, two; boots and shoes, four; clothes and tailoring, one; confectionery, one; dry goods, six; drugs, oils and paints, two; furniture and upholstery, one; groceries, one; hardware, two; jewelry, clocks, watches, etc., one; lumber, two; saddles and harness, two. Newspapers of 1875: the "Courier" at Seneca and the "Advance" at Sabetha, both weeklies.

In 1875 there were seventy-seven organized school districts and seventy-four school houses. Value of school buildings and grounds, furniture and apparatus, \$70,553. Parochial school, Catholic, at Seneca.

Churches in the county in 1875: Presbyterian organization, one, with a membership of thirty-two; church edifice, one; valuation, \$2,200. Con-

gregational organizations, six; membership, 220; church buildings, three; valuation, \$11,800. Baptist organizations, four; membership, 180; church edifice, one; valuation, \$2,500. Methodist organizations, four; membership, 405; churches, two; valuation, \$6,600. Episcopal, one, membership, six. Catholic, five, membership, 675; church edifice, one; valuation, \$2,000. Universalist organization, one; membership, twenty-five; church, one; valuation, \$9,800. There were libraries in fourteen townships. Three reported five public libraries, with 2,200 volumes, and forty-eight private libraries, with 5,242 volumes. The prices of unoccupied lands in 1875 ranged from \$3.50 to \$12 per acre.

As this history is being written, the tractor for farm work is becoming a factor in Nemaha county. Jonach brothers, Matt, Tom and Charley, have demonstrated the utility of the tractor by a California outfit which has been giving wonderful service in Capioma township. They shipped in a Yuba tractor from California. It is of the caterpillar type. With their tractor the Jonach brothers farm several hundred acres and plow, harrow and harvest with the tractor as motive power. They also use the tractor for threshing, and even drag the roads in front of their homes with the tractor.

Peter H. Reed, of Reilly township, is another possessor of tractive motor power, and the crops on the Reed farm are ample evidence of the benefits to be obtained from the use of the tractor on the farm. When Mr. Reed's son graduated from the State Agricultural school at Manhattan, he came home to take charge of the farming operations imbued with advanced ideas of farming. His pioneer father was not far behind him, but his shrewd, practical common sense also assisted in the installation of any so-called "new fangled" ideas of farming. While Mr. Reed is an advocate of better farming, he is also aware that a great many things advocated by the "farm professors" need tempering and to be tried out. He decided to purchase a tractor, and did so against the advice of his son, who wished to stick to the horse power. The tractor was purchased. Young Reed soon became converted to its labor saving benefits and operated the tractor from early morning until late at night and soon plowed 200 acres of corn ground to a depth hitherto impossible with the horse drawn plow. He is now an enthusiast on the subject of tractor motive power on the farm, and the crops on the Reed farm this year show the beneficent results of thorough cultivation and deep plowing. The writer of this article visited the Reed farm on business connected with the county history July 26, 1916, and saw what is unquestionably the finest acreage of corn in all Kansas, without doubt. The corn was very tall and vigorous and healthy stalks and large ears already formed. There seemed to be plenty of moisture in the ground—a condition due to the fact that the motor propelled plows turned over the soil to a depth of ten to twelve inches and effectually buried any debris or weed seeds from the last year's crop. The corn crop was clean, much cleaner than other fields



in the same neighborhood, because of the fact that the deep plowing had effectually buried everything which had been lying on the surface of the ground. The spring and summer rains had thoroughly soaked the soil and had sunk to the depth of the plowed ground instead of running off the surface, as is often the case in shallow plowing. Consequently, when the dry weather set in the corn crops on the Reed place had a store of conserved moisture upon which the stalks could draw, and early maturing of the crop was the result. It is Mr. Reed's intention to plow still deeper this fall and winter, and his prediction that he and his son will produce a crop yielding 100 bushels to the acre will probably come true.

A grain business that within sixteen years has developed from a trade of a few thousand dollars to a volume of transactions aggregating three and one-half million dollars annually is in a sentence the story of the Derby Grain Company, with headquarters at Sabetha. So rapidly did the concern spread out that F. A. Derby, the head of the corporation, has an office in Topeka, leaving C. L. Parker to manage the home office at Sabetha. The history of the concern is an achievement.

It was in May, 1900, that F. A. Derby bought the old "bank" elevator on the Rock Island track, in Sabetha. This was the beginning of the big Derby grain business of today. A few years later Mr. Derby began to branch out, purchasing the elevators at Mayberry, Neb., and Powhattan, Kans. Steadily elevators were added to the Derby list until at the present time there are ten elevators operated by the concern, most of them between Horton and Fairbury, on the Rock Island. Nine years ago the Sabetha flour mill burned, and Mr. Derby acquired the mill property in Sabetha, consisting of four lots. The elevator on the mill site was retained and the original elevator was torn down. In 1910, C. L. Parker, who operated the elevator at Powhattan, became identified with the Derby interests, and located in Sabetha. The concern was organized as F. A. Derby & Company until June, 1911, when the business was incorporated as the Derby Grain Company, with a capital of \$50,000. The officers were F. A. Derby, president; R. L. Patton, vice president; C. L. Parker, secretary and treasurer. This organization continues to the present time. The capital is increased to \$60,000. In May, 1914, Mr. Derby moved to Topeka and established a cash grain office, and has built up a splendid business in connection with his Sabetha interests. Since he left Sabetha, three elevators have been acquired in central western Kansas.

These two Kansas men, Mr. Derby and Mr. Parker, have served commerce and themselves well. As stated, in 1915 the volume of business of the Derby Grain Company totaled three and one-half million dollars. To handle that grand total of the world's food in twelve months requires experience, keen understanding of men and the machinery of commerce—yes, and vision. These men believe in things, or they would not have grown so extensively in Western affairs. They belong to Nemaha county's annals.

## CHAPTER XXI.

### AGRICULTURE.

(Continued.)

APPLE ORCHARDS—HONEY—CATTLE SHIPMENTS—PRIZE CROPS—AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY—FIRST ANNUAL FAIR—BOARD OF TRADE—REPAYING NEW YORK—A FREAK PEACH TREE—PRIZE WINNERS—PURE-BRED AND "SCRUB CORN"—FLETCHELL AND WRIGHT'S \$67,000 GRAIN CROP—HARVESTING THE CROP—AS A HEALTH RESORT—AGE OF NEMAHA—JACOB FLEISCH'S QUARTER SECTION TREE FARM.

Of the original trees planted in the town of Sabetha, but two immense cottonwoods are left. Four of these withstood the woodman's axe until late years. These are the four that stood in a row, mighty old patriarchs, on the H. C. Haines lot on Fourteenth street. Two of these have gone. Two represent the remains of the immense cottonwood family plantd on the townsite by J. R. Prentice. Mr. Prentice says that the town topography would have been changed if the women had been more careful about tying their clothes lines to his tender young cottonwood trees. It was to faithful adherence to the god of Monday's labor that tore down the cottonwoods. The two handsome cottonwoods on the Haines place are sole reminders of the tree that made bearable the prairie country, which pioneers found almost treeless. Mr. Prentice also planted the soft maples, that have been spared by the ruthless axeman to some extent. The original apple orchard, which grew all over the townsite, was planted by Captain Williams, the town father. Of this immense orchard, the only remaining trees are on the F. V. Turner place, the Masheter, Whittenhall and Weiss places, homes widely scattered now by streets and buildings.

Old orchards are being weeded out to some extent, making room for corn. They have been immense bearers, as the following will show. Ed Harding, the Rock Island freight agent, estimates that Sabetha had 30,000 barrels of apples shipped out in one year. Edgar Newman had some Wolf river apples weighing twenty-three ounces apiece; W. C. Deaver had a pippin that weighed ten ounces; Smith Ayers had Rambos that weighed thirteen ounces. It takes but fifty-seven of these Rambos to make a bushel. Robert Edie, a farmer near Bern, had 1,800 apple trees loaded with fruit, but, owing to the poor market for the apples, his big crop was fed to the hogs. He had at least 1,000 barrels of apples. It is the difficulty of shipping the fruit to a good market when

the crop is good, at a time when work is needed in other parts of farms that has induced Nemaha county farmers to give up the orchards in many instances to a less demanding crop.

Tales of bumper crops do not come from grain raisers alone. A. W. Swan, of Centralia, shipped to Kansas City 3,000 pounds of honey. This was from 150 stands of bees. The bees were believed to be starving at the beginning of the season.

A shipment of two train loads of cattle, the biggest shipment ever received in this part of the State, came to Sabetha. It consisted of forty-one cars of heifers and feeders. The cattle came from Arkalon, Kans. There were 1,886 head in the two trains. The arrival of a big shipment attracted a great deal of attention. It took three engines to bring the train to Sabetha. The cattle were distributed throughout this section. Two thousand five hundred head of spayed heifers were received in Nemaha county in this vicinity within two weeks.

D. A. Bestwick, of Berwick, had eight and one-half acres in alfalfa, which shows the profit which can be derived from this kind of hay in Nemaha county. First, he cut fully eight tons of alfalfa from his field, valued at \$65. Then he threshed forty-nine bushels of seed from the second crop, worth \$392. He then cut a third crop from the same field, bringing the value of the product of the eight and one-half acres up to \$520. In addition to this, twenty-seven head of hogs had been making themselves fat on the field.

The unbroken, treeless line of horizon remembered by pioneer women seems impossible to the residents of Nemaha county today, who see such logs as this taken to market. An immense white elm log, cut by C. E. Sammons, of Albany, was hauled to a saw mill near Pace's pond, but the log was too big for the saw mill to handle. The log was five feet in diameter and twelve feet long. It was supposed to be sawed into lumber, but it was so big that no ordinary mill could cut it. The log came from the Fox farm, near Albany.

A. L. Smart, of Wetmore, had forty acres of wheat in the nineties that went thirty-three bushels and one peck to the acre, for which he received seventy-five cents per bushel. He sowed 140 acres the following fall. Another eighty-acre farm in his neighborhood had been renting for several years and bringing in scarcely enough to keep up repairs and pay taxes. The owners hired Smart to put in their wheat and the next year they realized something over \$1,200 from the crop.

Levi Stevens made enough money farming to retire early in life by methods which produced prize yields on his farm. Mr. Stevens harvested, threshed and sold eight acres of wheat, which averaged forty-eight bushels and ten pounds to the acre, and tested sixty-one and a half pounds, and he sold it to a local elevator for sixty-three cents, three cents above the market price. John Heiniger, of near Berwick, held a record for one season. He had nine and a half acres of wheat, which yielded fifty-three bushels to the acre. Mr. Heiniger had, in addition to

the wheat, given a thirty-five acre field of wheat, which averaged thirty-five bushels to the acre. It took the threshing machine a half day on the nine and a half acres. For many years, wine of rare vintage was made by a man who lives near Centralia. It was a Benedictine beverage, composed of twenty-eight ingredients. The recipe was procured from a man living in Austria, who got it from a Benedictine Brotherhood. The Centralia man, who brewed it for his own use, was to promise, on receiving the recipe, that he would buy only two of the ingredients of which it is made at the same place.

Herman Althouse, living near Sabetha, rode a mule which he had owned over thirty years, which was always a better looking animal than most horses. Mr. Althouse not only worked the mule on the farm, but when he wanted a fancy stepper and a brilliant actor, he hitched up the mule and went on dress parade. He rode or drove the mule to town almost every time he went. The mule was such a trotter that Mr. Althouse frequently drove it to a sulky. It passed farm houses with such a dash and speed that it made chickens fly clear over windmills. Mr. Althouse would not trade his mule for many a fine horse offered to him.

Nemaha county's superiority as an agricultural county is due as much to the enterprise of leading farmers as it is due to its soil. As this history is being written a county farm bureau is being established. A county farm agent will be located at Seneca and he will manage the advancement of the county's crops. He will fight pests, introduce better methods of farming, and will push crop production forward generally. His salary will be \$1,800 a year. Ample funds for the support of the work in the county will be appropriated by the county, the State and National departments of agriculture. Farmers all over the county have banded together in a farm organization. The county farm bureau has officers and a board of directors and starts off with the best type of business organization.

As early as July 28, 1864, an effort appears to have been made looking toward the organization of an agricultural society, the "Courier" of that date containing a leader on the subject and urging the importance of holding a fair at some time during the fall for the exhibition of farm products. No energetic effort appears to have been made, however, and at all events no fair was held. The organization of the Nemaha County Agricultural and Horticultural Society was effected on June 27, 1868, with C. G. Scrafford, president; J. P. Taylor, secretary, and Samuel Lapham, treasurer. Land suitable for fair purposes was donated to the association, comprising blocks 32, 33, 34 and 35, of the townsite of Seneca, the grounds being enclosed early in the fall of the same year, and the first annual fair of the society was held October 22, 1868.

In 1869, a building 28x60 feet in size was erected for the reception of the display of farm products and manufactured articles of various kinds, and the second fair was held September 22, 23 and 24 of the same

year. In 1870 and 1871, exhibitions were made, and in 1872, on September 18, 19 and 20, the fifth, and as it proved, the last annual fair of the series was held. The officers at this time were William B. Slosson, president; N. Coleman, vice president; William Histed, secretary, and H. H. Lanham, treasurer.

The cause of the discontinuance of displays and the practical integration of the society was due to financial troubles, it having gone into debt in the improvement of its grounds and incurred other liabilities, the total amount of the indebtedness being \$1,140. In August, 1873, this burden was assumed by George Graham, Jacob VanLoon, D. R. Magill, J. P. Cone and Mrs. C. G. Scrafford as consideration for a warranty deed of the property of the society. On October 4, 1877, a charter was issued by the Secretary of State incorporating A. H. Burnett, Willis Brown, West E. Wilkinson, Richard Johnson and Edward Butt as the Nemaha County Agricultural Society. No other record of the new organization is found.

A board of trade, organized in Seneca, deploring the absence of a fair, appointed a fair committee in 1882, consisting of William Histed, Abijah Wells, George A. Marvin, C. G. Scrafford and Mortimer Mathews, to devise ways and means for the holding of a fair if possible during the fall of 1882. Learning that the only piece of ground near Seneca in every way fitted for fair grounds was about to be sold, and if secured for fair purposes must be bought at once, the sum of \$2,300 was raised by subscription and the property purchased, William Histed, Willis Brown and George Williams being appointed trustees in behalf of the new owners. The object of the proprietors was to hold the land subject to the acceptance of the people upon repayment of their investment, the law providing that the county might purchase improved fair grounds, appropriating not to exceed one and three-quarters mills on the dollar of the taxable valuation of the county for that purpose. The question of the purchase of these grounds was voted on at the election in November, 1882. The proposal was voted down by the county, but the existence of the society and the purchase of the ground was an assured fact.

About seven years ago a little paragraph from the Sabetha "Herald" went floating over the country and was reprinted in every State in the Union and even the big, haughty Eastern newspapers, to this effect: "At last, after half a century, Kansas has the laugh on New York. No more can New York, the haughty, the scornful, the condescending, look down upon us and refer to us as 'bleeding Kansas.' The pride of the Empire State has been humbled. She grovels in the dust at our feet, and implores our help. Rev. and Mrs. Broad, who were in Sabetha a few weeks ago, are traveling in Kansas to inspire sympathy and incidentally to get money to assist the wealthy, the overbearing, the insolent New York in caring for her poor. Remembering the old clothes sent us in grasshopper and drought times, we are digging down into our

jeans and responding nobly to New York's cry for help. We are gladly squaring our debt of a half a century. We are not 'getting even' with our cast-off garments; we are sending hard cash, the result of harvesting our golden grain. Lo! how hath the mighty fallen! Golden Kansas bravely supports the drooping form of Bleeding New York."

And Nemaha county could well afford such relief if the truthful chronicle of crops in the years mentioned may be believed, and well they may be. The following stories of crops in Nemaha county are those of today and yesterday, and every year for the past decade with rare exceptions of years when one crop was poor, only that another crop might be fine. The items are taken from local reports in different parts of the county covering the past ten years. Mrs. Jennie Miller reports the first oats yield, which averaged forty bushels to the acre and made 2,000 bushels. Will Livengood's wheat averaged forty-one bushels on twenty-five acres. Ed Ruse had twenty-one acres in wheat, which averaged forty-six bushels. Jake Warrick's wheat yield was forty-eight bushels per acre.

Jake Ayers, who lives between Bern and Oneida, has a peach tree that has played some queer pranks with him. The peaches were originally an early variety, maturing in the middle of July. Some thirteen years ago the tree was broken down completely by weight of fruit. Afterward sprouts came up and those sprouts have now developed into a tree, and the fruit on the tree does not mature until the last of September, being more than two months later in maturing than before the tree was broken. The quality of the peach is excellent. Six peaches gathered weighed two pounds and five ounces. What is the explanation of the change in the tree's time of maturing?

Occasionally a Nemaha county man makes the mistake of moving to a new country. When he comes home on a visit he brings samples of what his new home is raising. This is the way to squelch him. Show him a sample of S. Murdock's oats, the finest in the world, which took the prize at the St. Louis World's Fair. Show him Tim Gilmore's wheat, grown near Oneida—fifty-seven bushels to the acre. Show him W. A. Doolittle's chickens, which have taken more prizes than any other in the world. Show him Ira Collins' and John McCoy's cattle, which bring buyers from all over the country. Show him George Kerr's Duroc Jersey hogs, which sell for a hundred dollars apiece. Show him samples of corn and grasses grown by Frank Deaver and Otto Porr, which have taken all the grain prizes in this section of the country for the past three years. The visitor by this time will begin to shift from one foot to the other and soon remember that he has an engagement elsewhere.

Nemaha county farmers are progressive throughout. Charlie Lewis raised two kinds of corn last season; pure bred and scrub. The scrub was big and fine looking, but it was not compact. One of the big ears of scrub corn looked three times larger than the pure bred corn, but contained only 944 grains, as against 1,150 grains on the little pure bred

corn. The grains of the scrub corn were the largest. Charlie Lewis likes the pure bred corn, but his father, Myron Lewis, stood for the scrub, and made the corn point that scrub corn will produce just as many ears to the acre as the pure bred corn, and that each ear makes a little more corn.

J. S. Fletchall and his partner, Jack Wright, threshed 80,830 bushels of grain in one season, valued at \$67,000. That is, the small grain grown in one locality of the county, where Fletchall has been threshing for some years. They threshed 44,390 bushels of wheat, 9,922 bushels of speltz, valued at about \$4,000; 108 bushels of timothy, valued at \$216; ninety-four bushels of Kafir corn, valued at \$47; seventy-nine bushels of cane, valued at about \$40; thirty-eight bushels of rye, valued at \$37; 500 bushels of clover, valued at \$4,000; 400 bushels of alfalfa, valued at \$3,600. The firm also threshed sixteen bushels of flax seed for W. C. Schug. Mr. Schug used the flax seed in a meal he makes for his cows.

The corn crop of 1906 was so great that Miss Emma Cashman and many other school teachers suspended school for ten days that teachers and pupils and all might assist in the corn husking and handling the crop. The yield all over the county was from forty to sixty bushels to the acre, and the acreage immense. Several farmers that year showed a yield of eighty bushels per acre. This about established a record. There was a particular rush to market the corn this season. Farmers were hauling their corn in as fast as they could in order to get it exported to Germany before the duty went into effect. Germany had greatly increased the duty on corn, to take effect in February, and the months of December and January saw every child and schoolma'am of the country districts doing what they could to help. Thousands of bushels of corn were sold to all the grain men of the county within a week. The export rush began the last week of December and elevators were worked overtime. Corn graded No. 2. There had not been such a great crop in years. Jerry Feek raised over eighty bushels on ground that had been plowed for the first time the previous spring.

A word of praise of Nemaha county as a health resort was given by Mr. and Mrs. William Jones, living in the north part of the county, by the State line. Mr. and Mrs. Jones made a trip shortly before attaining their seventy-fifth wedding anniversary. Mr. Jones was ninety-five at that time and his wife was ninety-seven. They were planning all kinds of gayeties on this trip. They had traveled all their lives. At one time they made a trip from Oregon to Nebraska on horseback. It took them six months and they slept out of doors every night. This accounts for their ruggedness and good health. Mr. and Mrs. Jones eat everything set before them, and always have. They had always been ardent in their praise of this section's out of doors and food.

The age of Nemaha county is told in her trees. Fred Lukert, county engineer, built a barn 66x72 feet, and the building throughout was constructed of solid black walnut. No veneered walnut in the barn:

no vulgar imitation of stained walnut. Nothing but solid walnut, even to the timbers on which the barn will rest. Out here in Nemaha county we believe in having things swell, even for our hogs. The walnut was cut from trees grown on his farm where the barn was constructed.

### A QUARTER SECTION TREE FARM.

Here is a man and wife who lived their lives as they wanted to live. They are Jacob Fleisch and wife, who farm four miles northwest of Bern. They loved trees, so they grew a whole 160-acre farm of trees. The trees were planted away back in the seventies, and have given Nemaha county one of the most unique farms in the United States. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Fleisch is set down in a dense portion of the forest they planted. Within the forest they are again surrounded by flowers. Their home just grew like the trees, an addition at a time. Again, inside the walls is an inner temple. We might call this the do-as-you-please sanctuary. Mr. and Mrs. Fleisch read much, reflect a little, and from time to time add to a great fund of common sense, which both possess.

Their home-grown forest trees tower to a height of forty to fifty feet. They stand in rows from twelve to twenty feet apart and about four to six feet in the row. The trees are numbered by the thousand—mostly walnut and soft maple. There is an osage orange grove of about four acres, and osage orange surrounds the place as fences. Also there are some honey locusts used as line fence. There is cottonwood timber and willow here and there.

Hogs and cattle and horses wander about the place in prescribed limits, and you find chickens almost anywhere, each apparently enjoying its own particular kind of animal heaven. A tank for the cattle and horses out in the woods is thatched and full of fresh water. The water flows out there from a well somewhere, but the whole effect is that of fresh water from a spring. The hogs have the wild, free life of their razorback ancestors.

The wind floats lazily through the dense forest, and the mere worldly human being feels impelled to quit his daily existence of fretting and fuming and take life as easily as the animals do. The feeling is further encouraged when you visit Mr. and Mrs. Fleisch and get their philosophy of contentment.

You need have no fear of running up against any human prejudice or custom. In the Fleisch home they do as they please and they grant you the same privilege.

How did Jacob Fleisch come to plant 160 acres in forest trees? Well, he always loved trees, and back in Preble county, Ohio, it ground on his soul to see the wonderful native forests depleted to make farm land, solely in a grab for dollars. He believed in more than one compensation—the compensation of happiness, joy in living, as well as pay



in dollars. Also, there was the wanton destruction of those giant Ohio trees. They would have log rollings and at night great logs would be piled up and burned as a part of the festal occasion. This ground on the fancy of Jacob Fleisch.

He left the country and came to Nemaha county. He found it a prairie in the early seventies. No one was planting trees. He bought half a section of land and decided that half of it must go into trees. The quarter section now in forest was bought from Mortimer Mathews, so many years county surveyor of Nemaha county. In 1874, Mr. Fleisch began to plant walnuts. At first, four or five acres were planted. Then, in 1877 and 1878, sixty acres of walnuts were planted. The nuts were put in the ground by the bushel. Soft maples, too, were planted, fully forty acres of them. Osage orange, catalpas, and honey locusts were planted at various times in those early days.

And so the forest grew. Mr. and Mrs. Fleisch were married in Preble county, Ohio, June 22, 1876. In his bride, Jacob Fleisch had a mate who understood his philosophy, and had one of her own as fine. She helped him grow his forest and added the flowers. The flower garden is a wonder. The variety of flowers seems endless. Many of them are rare.

The oldest trees have been standing some forty-two years now. At one time there were walnut trees fourteen inches in diameter. The largest ones were cut down, partly to thin the trees and partly to make lumber for buildings. Thus the couple have part of their buildings made from trees grown on the farm.

"If I were going to plant another quarter section," said Mr. Fleisch, "I would not plant a quarter section solidly in trees. I would enclose several fields in specioso catalpas and osage orange. I would plant a grove of evergreens for the home grounds."

Among Mr. Fleisch's neighbors who are still in this part of the country are Peter Shellhorn, who lives in the same neighborhood, Mart Herrington and John A. Smith, who now live at DuBois, Neb.

## CHAPTER XXII.

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### NEWSPAPERS.

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THE FIRST NEWSPAPER—THE NEMAHA "COURIER"—ITS POLICY—JOHN P. CONE, EDITOR—THE "COURIER-DEMOCRAT"—"MERCURY"—THE SENECA "TRIBUNE"—OTHER NEWSPAPERS—SABETHA NEWSPAPERS—CENTRALIA, CORNING AND GOFF NEWSPAPERS—THE BERN "GAZETTE"—THE WETMORE "SPECTATOR"—A RARE NEWSPAPER COLLECTION.

Seneca had the first newspaper in Nemaha county. It was the Nemaha "Courier." The initial number appeared November 14, 1863. John P. Cone, still a valuable citizen of Kansas, was the editor and proprietor. The "Courier" was a six-column folio. The "Courier" was Republican in politics. It was strong for freedom. The first issue of the "Courier" handed out this one:

"The 'Courier,' as a pioneer of the art preservative in Nemaha county, today sends greeting to all, friend and foe—rebel and copper-heads excepted. Issued upon soil never before settled upon for a 'pry' to the world's lever, it stands first and yet alone to herald that happy day when types first 'were taught to act the happy messengers of thought.'"

The paper was issued in the old Lappin & Scrafford building on the main street of Seneca. Here the paper was printed once a week until January 23, 1868. The war was over, things had cooled down and the "Courier" had, too. The paper ceased to profess a protection of freedom and began to protect home industries. Whether advertising had picked up or the mail order business loomed in the distance, appeareth not in the records of the time. March 25, 1869, the name of the paper was changed to that of the "Kansas Courier," and by some joke of fate the violent Republican paper of the early days is now the "Courier-Democrat" of the opposite politics and big following today. The war is over.

When Mr. Cone got out his first issue of the Nemaha "Courier" in 1863, there was not another paper in this whole country. In fact, Sol Miller, who was then printing his famous "Chief" at White Cloud, ridiculed Cone for daring to try to live and print a paper in Nemaha. There was, of course, the little matter of Nemaha county printing and job work that was going to Miller at the time, which may have influenced Miller's opinion, but the editor of the "Courier" didn't have easy sailing for a long time. Folks in and around Seneca raised some money to pay

for subscriptions, but Mr. Cone's recollection in those days was that of taking in boots, bootjacks and cord wood and things like that in payment for the paper.

Mr. Cone was a free State man who came to Kansas to help overcome the votes of the pro-slavery men. He left Haverhill, Mass., for Kansas in 1857. Secretary Webb, of the Emigrant Aid Society at Boston, sold him a ticket to St. Louis for \$25. The Emigrant Aid Society was nothing more nor less than an organization to run abolitionists into Kansas. On the train Mr. Cone met six other abolitionists bound for Kansas, four men and two women. Arriving at St. Louis by train, they found there was a little branch railroad running to Jefferson City. The party bought tickets to Jefferson City. Stage coaches were running from Jefferson City to Independence Landing, now Kansas City, but the coaches were so crowded that there was no chance of going that way. So the four men hired a team and driver for \$110 to transport all the baggage and the three women to Independence, although the men expected to ride most of the way.

The roads were in such terrible condition that the men, far from being able to ride, had to help the wagon out of the mire constantly. The highway was little more than a trail. From Independence the six people went to Lawrence, and Mr. Cone took the stage to Leavenworth. He was bound for Sumner, three miles south of the present site of Atchison. Sumner then was booming and expected to be a bigger and better town than Atchison or Independence. Sumner is now dead. He walked from Leavenworth to Sumner. At Sumner his brother, D. D. Cone, was the pioneer publisher of the Sumner "Gazette." John P. Cone arrived in Sumner on December 9, 1857. John P. Cone was himself a printer and, he helped get out the paper. He remained in Sumner during the boom times, until 1861. Sumner was then losing its prestige, and he went to Atchison, the rival town, and worked on John A. Martin's paper, "The Champion." After a short service on "The Champion," Mr. Cone continued to White Cloud and worked for Sol Miller on his "White Cloud Chief," which later was transferred to Troy. He was there during one winter.

At Marysville the Southerners seemed to be making progress toward controlling that locality. But George D. Swearingen, who had been elected sheriff of Marshall county, was a Republican, and he sent for Mr. Cone. The result was the publication in Marysville by Mr. Cone of the "Big Blue Union," the first Republican paper in Marshall county. Mr. Cone ran the "Big Blue Union" until the summer of 1863, and in November of that year, he left the Marysville paper to start the "Courier" in Seneca. He had only a little hand press and a handful of type. Later, though, when he was given legal advertising from the United States and the State, he took in a hatful of money, and the first thing he did was to send to New York for a Gordon job press and a lot of type.

Mr. Cone ran the "Courier" until 1871, when he sold it to Frank Root and West E. Wilkinson. Eventually Root sold his interest to Wilkinson. Wilkinson edited the "Courier" until 1885, selling out to J. F. Thompson and Don J. Perry. It was about this time that the name was changed to the "Courier-Democrat." Mr. Thompson was the father of Senator William H. Thompson, of Kansas. Thompson and Perry lasted but a year, being succeeded in 1886 by Charles H. and Andrew P. Herold. The Herolds conducted the "Courier-Democrat" without change until 1896. Then J. M. Cober bought an interest in the paper, selling in a few years to L. M. McIntyre. The Herolds and McIntyre disposed of the property to W. F. Miller in 1891 or 1892. Miller did well with the Courier-Democrat, but decided to move to Iowa, and George and Dora Adriance, brother and sister, bought the plant and good will in August, 1909. This same proprietorship of the property obtains at the present time.

The "Courier-Democrat" has made the greatest strides in its history during the proprietorship of George and Miss Dora Adriance. Young, active, enterprising and keen writers, brother and sister have done things in the county with their paper. Theirs is a positive force. Their "Courier-Democrat" takes a stand for progress in everything. They are unafraid, and their paper is always fair. The relationship of this brother and sister is fine. They make their home together in a bungalow which they built.

#### THE MERCURY.

Seneca's second newspaper was the "Mercury." It appeared September 19, 1869. Thomas S. Kames was the editor. The paper staggered a few weeks, fell and was wrecked. It never rose again. About a year later, January 18, 1870, to be exact, the "Independent Press" was issued. It sought to be quite important and stylish, and called itself the Nemaha County Printing Association. George W. Collins was the editor. It ran along until June of that same year, when Paul Connor took charge editorially. It got in a bad way financially and suspended in December, being less than a year old. It slept until March 3, 1871, three months, when it was revived. L. A. Hoffman was the proprietor then. About a year later Hoffman withdrew and W. D. Wood bought the paper. March 4, 1873, Wood changed the name to the "Nonpareil." The "Nonpareil" ceased publication February 6, 1874. It had more vicissitudes than anything else.

#### THE SENECA TRIBUNE.

The Seneca "Tribune" of today, so long under the editorial charge of Harry Jordan, was started April 16, 1879, by George W. Clawson. With the clanging bells of time, the "Tribune" and the "Courier" have changed parties and the "Tribune" is now Republican and the "Courier" is today

Democratic. October 2, 1879, the "Tribune" was transferred to and the publication continued by George & Adams, H. C. Adams becoming sole proprietor on December 18 of the same year. Abijah Wells purchased an interest in the "Tribune" January 8, 1880. He became editor, the firm name being Adams & Wells. A year later Andrew J. Felt came down from Iowa, bought the plant and business and became editor and proprietor of the "Tribune." Later, he sold to Harry Jordan, who is still the owner.

Today we know the Seneca "Tribune" as "Harry Jordan's paper." Harry Jordan has conducted the paper for thirty years; has fought political fray. Harry Jordan will be recorded in Nemaha's annals as the political fray. Harry Jordan will be recorded in Nemaha annals as the editor who helped through the county's greatest trials and its most rapid advancement. Editors came and went through Harry Jordan's administration, but he remained, because he was serving best. That is the law in other things, and it holds in the case of the "Tribune's" editor. Mr. Jordan is Nemaha county's oldest editor in point of service. But he was not the "Tribune's" first editor.

#### OTHER NEWSPAPERS.

The Nemaha County "Journal," a sort of real estate publication, appeared in 1879. It continued a few months under the proprietorship of J. P. Taylor. Then it died.

Numerous attempts were made to make a success of other papers, in Seneca in later years. At one time five papers were being printed in Seneca. In 1891, James Jones started the "News," an Alliance paper brought from Goff. Jones let go in about a year and ran, wishing the paper onto the town Christian minister, Rev. J. S. Becknell. Theoretically, it was a fine thing for Rev. Becknell. As a talking point, he could preach on Sunday and run the paper the other six days of the week. Somehow it didn't work out in practice and the "News" went into decline and died.

W. J. Granger launched the Seneca "Republican" about 1900. After a couple of years of toiling the "Republican" was moved to Oneida, where it breathed its last.

Then there was the "Rural Kansan," established by E. L. Miller, a real estate man. The "Kansan" was born along about 1901, and lived some five years, expiring of old age.

#### SABETHA NEWSPAPERS.

George W. Larseliere and James H. Wright launched the first newspaper venture in Sabetha. They called it the "Advance," and they issued their first paper on May 7, 1874. In November of the same year, Larseliere left, as it was a one-man proposition. Things looked a little

brighter after that, and on February 4, 1875, William L. Palmer joined Wright in printing the "Advance." Palmer did not like the outlook, and beat it in six weeks. Then J. L. Pelletier came for a few weeks and left. On July 28, 1876, Wright sold out to E. A. Davis, who stayed two years. Finding that it was not a gold mine, Davis let the "Advance" die on January 18, 1878. The Advance was a weekly and Republican in politics.

Sabetha's strong newspaper publisher, James F. Clough, established the Nemaha County "Republican" October 5, 1876. It was a weekly from the first. In June of the following year, J. C. Hebbard, formerly of Seneca, and the first county superintendent, and later of Topeka, became associate editor of the "Republican." But he stayed only a year. The Cloughs, father and son, were brilliant men. The son, Edward Clough, is now editor of "Finance," in Cleveland, Ohio, an important publication of its kind.

In the nineties, the Sabetha "Commercial" was printed in Sabetha Seneca. His widow, Mrs. Laura Cober, still owns the files of this interesting Sabetha paper at her home in Sabetha.

The Sabetha "Herald" was established by T. L. Brundage, January 3, 1884. Brundage had run the Kansas "Herald" at Hiawatha. He sold out to the "Hiawatha World." In his salutatory in the first issue of the Sabetha "Herald," he says: "A Sabetha publishing company induced me to come here." He doesn't say of whom the company consisted. Within the first year a political disagreement was launched between Mr. Brundage and Mr. Clough, editors of the "Herald" and "Republican." Later this eventuated into a pitched battle. The Herald was finally edited by Mrs. Flora P. Hogbin, wife of Rev. Hogbin, of the Congregational Church of Sabetha. She remained the editor for three years. Pool Grinstead later bought the "Republican." The war was ended by the purchase and combination of the two papers, the "Herald" and the "Republican," by J. A. Constant, who, in 1905, sold the paper to Ralph Tennal, who is the present owner of the paper. Mr. Tennal dropped the "Republican" part of the paper's name, and it has been since known as the Sabetha "Herald."

After the combination of the two papers, the Sabetha "Star" was started by C. J. Durst, who has since been and still is the proprietor. The "Star" has the unique distinction of never having changed editor or owner, and it is now twenty years of age. The "Star" is one of the few Kansas papers so distinguished.

Oneida tried for years to have a newspaper. The town men at Oneida were boomers as they were in every other town. But the miracle of making a paper pay was too much for even that optimistic community. The Oneida paper tried different angles of making itself pay. It was independent, then Republican, afterward Democratic and even anti-monopoly, but all to no avail. There was the "Chieftain," the "Dem-



(1.)

# NEMAHIA COUNTY OLD SETTLERS.

and 2, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph W. Dennis. 3 and 4, Mr. and Mrs. John Dennis. 5, Mrs. Margaret Hawley. 6 and 7, E. N. Hanks and Wife. 8 and 9, Hiram Burger and Wife. 10 and 11, John M. Ford and Wife. 12, Daniel Nielson. 13, E. R. Pelton. 14, William R. Wells. 15, Orange M. Gage. 16, Peter Hamilton. 17, Samuel Lappin. 18, George Sharp. 19, George Merrick. 20, Scott B. Humphrey. 21 and 22, Mr. and Mrs. James L. Newton. 23 and 24, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Johnson. 25 and 26, Dr. J. S. Hidden and Wife. 27 and 28, Mr. and Mrs. James Neville. 29, Mr. Sheppard. 30, Capt. A. W. Williams.





crat," the "Dispatch," the "News," and what other affiant saith not. Oneida is now served by the Sabetha "Herald," which gives the town a department all its own.

### CENTRALIA, CORNING AND GOFF NEWSPAPERS.

Many editors tried the newspaper business at Centralia before H. L. Wait gave the town its very unusual paper. For the Centralia "Journal" of the present day, run by Mr. Wait and his wife, stands in the first rank of country newspapers in Kansas in a town of the size of Centralia. B. B. Brooks was Centralia's first editor. He started the Centralia "Enterprise" in November, 1882. James Wait, brother of the present editor of Centralia's only paper, was a printer on the old "Enterprise" when Brooks was its editor. Brooks sold the "Enterprise" to a company of Centralia business men, including A. B. Clippinger, G. W. Pampel and A. L. Coleman. They concluded after a year and a half of ownership that they had enough newspaper experience, and disposed of the property to W. J. Granger.

Granger sat in the newspaper game a year and a half and sold to Bert Patch. Patch was good for three years. He sold to Dan Birchfield. Birchfield was owner of the "Enterprise" until 1894. He disposed of the property to F. M. Hartman, now editor of the Frankfort "Index." Hartman published the "Enterprise" until the fall of 1898, when Granger bought the paper back again. Granger sold the "Enterprise" to H. L. Wait and A. P. Jackson in 1900. These men consolidated the "Enterprise" with the Centralia "Times," which had been started by a company of thirty-four Centralia men in 1893. James Wait, brother of H. L. Wait, was the first editor of the Centralia "Times." J. H. Hyde was the second editor of the "Times." H. L. Wait acquired the "Times" in 1899. The present Centralia "Journal" is the outcome of the town's newspaper vicissitudes.

For more than fifteen years, Mr. Wait and his wife have published the "Journal." The paper has become a part of the existence of the progressive town and the farming community. The "Journal" is a business enterprise and an institution ranking with the public schools as a town asset. The Waits are a force in the community, their organ a vital medium of progress.

Lew Slocum is the editor of the Corning "Gazette." The "Gazette" was established in 1895. Slocum has been the editor for sixteen years. He is universally liked. Slocum not only runs a good newspaper at Corning, but he finds time to conduct a successful jewelry and repair business at Corning.

The Goff "Advance" was started in the spring of 1892. The town has never had another paper. Some of the editors were: J. L. Papes, row of the Mulvane, Kans., "News;" T. A. Kerr, employed by the Capper publications at Topeka; E. F. Jones, now living at Sabetha; T. L.

Briney, at present in Colorado; O. C. Williamson, a prosperous merchant and owner of a big store at Seattle, Wash. The Goff "Advance" is now owned by Ray T. Ingalls. In April, 1916, the Advance was moved into a new concrete building. Ray Ingalls is one of the most active newspaper men Nemaha county has had. Young, agreeable and intelligent, he gives the town a newspaper ability seldom seen in the country town.

### THE BERN GAZETTE.

The "Gazette" is not the first paper printed in Bern, though Bern has never had more than one paper at the same time, and the "Gazette" is not the successor of the Bern "Press," which was the first paper established here. The Bern "Press" was established in 1889 by one George Beaumont, who, at the time, was a druggist. Very shortly after Beaumont sold it to Frank Harber, who later sold to W. J. McLaughlin. The "Press" was Democratic in politics, and during the Cleveland administration, McLaughlin was appointed postmaster, conducting the business in the same building and in connection with the newspaper. Under the McKinley administration McLaughlin lost the postoffice, and shortly thereafter burned out, probably sometime in 1897, and the "Press" was never issued thereafter. The exact dates on which the paper was established, changed hands and discontinued, are unobtainable, because of the destruction of the records in the fire.

Bern was without a newspaper from the discontinuance of the "Press" until May 6, 1898 (about two months after the great fire which destroyed the business interests of the town), when the first number of the Bern "Gazette" was issued by M. E. Ford, its founder. Mr. Ford continued its publication until February 1, 1901, when he sold to M. L. Laybourn, a newspaper man from Lyndon, Kans. Mr. Laybourn retired October 1, 1902, having sold to Fred W. Lehman, a young man who was reared in the community. On May 1, 1908, the paper passed into the hands of W. W. Driggs, its present owner, but since January 1, 1915, it has been published by Driggs & Driggs, the firm consisting of W. W. Driggs and son, W. W. Driggs, Jr., the latter having been connected with the paper as an employee from the time of its purchase from Fred W. Lehman. The "Gazette" was established, and has always been conducted as a Republican paper until January, 1915, when, under its present management, it was changed to an independent publication.

### THE WETMORE SPECTATOR.

When Wetmore was still in its infancy a paper was started there, one of a string of papers along the Central Branch railroad called the "Acme." It lasted but a few months. Later, as the town grew older and stronger, a real newspaper was found a necessity, and the "Spectator"

was started. It has now attained thirty-five years of healthy growth and has at least one subscriber who has taken the paper, beginning with its first issue, and the first of every January since, has gone to the "Spectator" office to renew his subscription. The editor now is W. F. Turrentine, who has been owner for over twelve years. J. L. Bristow, former editor, still lives in the Wetmore neighborhood. Mr. Turrentine is mayor of Wetmore.

The Nemaha County "Spectator" was established in 1882 by J. F. Clough of the Sabetha "Republican," and T. J. Wolfley of Wetmore, and a printer on the Sabetha "Republican" by the name of George Fabrick, helped get out the first few issues. Some of the equipment came from Decatur, Ill., as the old address was plainly visible on some of the cases that were destroyed by the fire in May, 1907. A man by the name of Allen soon took Fabrick's place on the "Spectator," and in a few months, he was succeeded by J. T. Bristow, who, with only a few months' experience, was left in entire charge of the office. T. J. Wolfley soon bought out Clough's interest in the paper, and after conducting it himself for a time, sold out to F. M. Jeffreys, along about 1885, and Jeffreys sold the paper to a stranger, whose name is forgotten. The stranger remained but a short time, and Mr. Wolfley bought the paper back, afterward, in about 1888, selling it to John Stowell, now an attorney at Seneca, Kans. Mr. Stowell published the paper a year or two, then sold it to S. C. Shumaker, who had been cashier in the Wetmore State Bank until he lost his sight. Mr. Shumaker and his wife published the paper for some time, with J. T. Bristow looking after the mechanical end. Mr. Shumaker died about 1890, and soon after that Mr. Bristow bought it from the widow, and continued as its publisher until April 1, 1904, when he sold it to J. W. Coleman, publisher of the Effingham "New Leaf" at that time, now the editor of the Atchison "Globe." Mr. Coleman changed the name of the paper from the Nemaha County "Spectator" to the Wetmore "Enterprise." In 1905, the present publisher, W. F. Turrentine, purchased a half interest of Mr. Coleman, taking charge February 1, 1905, and, in October of that year, purchased Mr. Coleman's remaining interest. On account of so many of the old time subscribers calling the paper the "Spectator," the present publisher changed its name from the Wetmore "Enterprise" to the Wetmore "Spectator."

#### A RARE NEWSPAPER COLLECTION.

An unusual collection of rare newspapers was made by the late Dr. Lyons and is owned now by his family in Sabetha. It contains newspapers from London and Liverpool, England, Edinburgh and Glasgow, Scotland; and Basle and Lucerne, Switzerland, and a copy of the "Egyptian News" from Cairo. The latter newspaper is printed in three languages, English, French and Arabic. The Arabic looks very

much like shorthand. The hieroglyphics are identical with the old Scott-Browne system. Dr. Lyons has also a collection of letters from famous men: Senator John James Ingalls, President Benjamin Harrison, Dr. E. W. Barridge, a famous English physician, and many from famous foreign doctors and surgeons. Mrs. Lyons is a lineal descendant of the Virginia Randolphs, an ancestor, John Randolph, claiming his descent direct from Pocohontas. Mrs. Lyons has among her treasures a mahogany bureau made as a gift by the famous furniture house of Randolph for her grandmother.

## CHAPTER XXIII.

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### BENCH AND BAR

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A LAWYER AND JUDGE—THE LAWYER AND NECESSITY OF LAW—ITS APPLICATION—THE BENCH—JUDICIAL POWER VESTED—ALBERT L. LEE—ALBERT H. HORTON—ROBERT ST. CLAIR GRAHAM—NATHAN PRICE—PERRY L. HUBBARD—ALFRED G. OTIS—DAVID MARTIN—REUBEN C. BASSETT—JOHN F. THOMPSON—RUFUS M. EMERY—WILLIAM I. STUART—DISTRICT CLERKS—SHERIFFS—COUNTY ATTORNEYS—PROBATE JUDGES.

By Judge Rufus M. Emery.

“And ever the truth comes uppermost  
And ever is justice done.”

While the writer has had a somewhat extensive personal experience, as a student in a law office, practitioner as an attorney and counsellor at law at Seneca, Kans., and served a term of four years on the Bench as judge of the Twenty-second Judicial District of the State, composed of Nemaha, Brown and Doniphan counties, all of which covers a period of over forty years, yet I realize that I am not especially adapted to the task of producing an attractive, forcible and instructive article on the “Bench and Bar” of this county, yet having in a weak moment consented to make this contribution, I ask the kind indulgence of the readers while I attempt to give them, what seems to me, might be of interest to them and which I have taken from the public and court records, traditions and personal experiences and recollections of myself since 1875, and supplemented with much valuable information and incidents suggested by early settlers and especially Judge J. E. Taylor who has practiced law at this bar since 1864, and to whom I am under obligations for many early incidents, experiences and much information.

To the Bench and Bar, all acting under an oath of office, is confided the solemn and sacred trust and duty of vindicating, enforcing and carrying out the natural, revealed, common and statute laws of the land, which the sages of the law have defined to be the “rules of action, prescribed by a superior power commanding what is right and prohibiting what is wrong.” These rules of action, or law, have for their object, the security and welfare of the Nation, State and municipality, as well as society in the aggregate, and the personal and property rights of the individ-

idual, as a component part of the body politic—the common people. Law is also frequently and aptly defined as “common sense,” and in our opinion, springs from the natural equity and conception of right in the innermost consciousness of a normal and well balanced human being, impressed on man by the creator and finds expression in multitudinous, complex and often intricate rules of action laid down in the law now in force, for our government, which has been built up and taken from the experiences and judgment of the soundest and best minds and hearts of the centuries that have gone before.

The immense influence, radiating from our institutions of learning, including our common and parochial schools, the pulpit and numerous church organizations, and the press of the land, are now and have been for centuries, impressing human hearts and minds with a conception of the object and aim of human existence, but it is now and always has been, since brute force controlled the action of men, left to the law to find the way and lay down the rules of action, that are necessary to establish stable and effective government, capable of maintaining itself and the rights of her citizens among the nations of the earth and to regulate the individuals and corporations and other powers between themselves, so that every person, without regard to condition, may enjoy the greatest possible liberty, consistent with his duty and relations to other citizens; so that all may be secure in the fullest enjoyment of his natural rights of “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,” and a guaranty that he may be secure in person and property against the encroachments of the selfish, the licentious, the avaricious and other evil disposed persons. A people so governed and protected by these wholesome laws, must of necessity be contented, loyal and progressive and a beacon light to less favored nations, pointing the way to a higher and better civilization.

However wise, beneficent and just the laws may be, much depends on the application of the law to the existing facts of the case on trial and its proper enforcement, to prevent a miscarriage of justice. It must be remembered that all officers, from the highest to the lowest, are but human, moved by the same passions and prejudices as other men, and subject to the same liability to err, so gentle reader, if you would be secure in your full rights under the law, see that the most available men of integrity, capacity, suitable temperament and sound common sense, be chosen to administer and enforce the law without fear, favor or oppression, always remembering that where the best results are not reached in lawsuits, the failure can be generally traced to the defects or weaknesses of witnesses, juries, attorneys or judges and not to the laws themselves.

#### THE BENCH.

“When on you the law,  
Places its majestic paw  
Whether in innocence or guilt  
You are then required to wilt.”

—*Ware.*

The "Bench" is a designation originally applied to the seat of the judges, when benches, instead of richly upholstered furniture, on which they now recline, was in use and the term "Bench" was applied to the judges collectively, as a distinction from the attorneys and counsellors, who are called the "Bar." Anciently all, and now many of the judges in the nations of the world, were arbitrarily appointed by the king, prince, power or potentate governing the Realm and held their office during life or the pleasure of the sovereign, and even now, in our own democratic republic, all Federal judges are appointed by the President. Judges so chosen naturally are more or less subservient to the power that creates them and the common rights of the people are greatly endangered and there have been many instances where they have been grossly and arbitrarily denied.

In this free and enlightened Nation, where the judges or "Bench" in all the States are chosen by the ballot of the citizens at their general elections, and recently without regard to political considerations, or the intrigue of political parties and politicians, the common people are supreme in their ballots and can have an intimate knowledge of the honesty, integrity, capability and temperament of the men whom they elevate to these very important trusts. Few mistakes are made in their selections and when made, the people stand ready to yield them a cheerful, respectful and courteous obedience, while applying the law that governs them, which of necessity gives them almost autocratic power over their lives, property and liberty, subject to review only by a higher court, and in many instances of discretion and weight of evidence, their decision is final and cannot be reviewed even on appeal. An ignorant, a dishonest, a revengeful, an impetuous and a partisan judge is a menace to the rights and privileges of every citizen and it is a wonder that there are so few instances on record where this autocratic power has been abused and for this reason there is a general feeling of respect and confidence in the judiciary, that makes their duties and positions a pleasant task.

May 30, 1854, by an act of Congress, Kansas was organized into a Territory, conferring the functions of government and vesting the judicial power of the same in a supreme court, consisting of a chief justice and two associate justices, all appointed by the President, and providing the territory should be divided into three judicial districts and that a court be held in each district, by one of the supreme judges, who should possess chancery and common law jurisdiction, in the trial of cases. Nemaha county was placed in the Second Judicial district and the first court was held at Lecompton, Douglas county. When the State was organized in 1861, Nemaha county was in the same district and so remained until 1876, when a new district was created, consisting of Nemaha, Brown and Doniphan counties and said district was then and ever since has been constituted as the "Twenty-second Judicial District of the State." The respective judges of the District Court sitting in and for Nemaha county, Kansas, are as follows:

**Albert L. Lee**, of Elwood, Doniphan county, Kansas, on the organi-

zation of Kansas as a State, was duly appointed by the Governor, January 29, 1861, and while he immediately qualified and passed on some matters at Chambers, he never held a term of court in this county and on October 31, 1861, he resigned and entered the Union army and served during the Civil war and rose to the rank of brigadier general and after the war he settled in the East. But little is known of him personally here now, except that he was a bright, capable young attorney of good repute and lived a successful and prosperous life. He died in New York City December 31, 1907. After his resignation,

**Albert H. Horton**, of Atchison, Kans., was appointed as his successor on October 31, 1861, and afterward held by election until May 11, 1866, when he resigned and resumed the practice of law at Atchison, Kans., until January, 1877, when by election he assumed the duties of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Kansas, which position he held continuously until April 30, 1895, when he resigned and became a very active candidate for United States Senator, but failed by a very small majority of election and later died at his home in Atchison, September 2, 1902. He was always popular and a man of great force of character, clear and logical, and his opinions richly illuminate the pages of the supreme court reports, while acting as its chief justice for seventeen years. After his resignation as district judge,

**Robert St. Clair Graham**, of Atchison, Kans., was appointed to fill his place on May 11, 1866, and was reelected and served until January, 1869. He was a young man of good family connections and a fair lawyer and made a creditable judge, but was defeated for nomination on the Republican ticket. His successor,

**Nathan Price**, of Troy, Doniphan county, Kansas, was elected and served from January, 1869, until March 1, 1872, when he resigned, to contest for the nomination on the Republican ticket, for the office of representative in Congress, but failing to secure the nomination he resumed the practice of law at Troy, Kans., which he continued until his death, March 8, 1883. He was a type of the early settler, strong, vigorous and forceful in body and mind and a capable and popular judge. He was succeeded by

**Perry L. Hubbard**, of Atchison, Kans., who was first appointed and afterward elected and served until January, 1877. He was a gentlemanly politician, of kindly disposition of a good judicial temperament and of fair ability but had many bitter enemies among the bar of the district, who after his renomination on the Republican ticket, were largely instrumental in defeating him at the polls, notwithstanding the large Republican majority in the district. He died in Atchison, May 7, 1912.

**Alfred G. Otis**, of Atchison, Kans., was the first Democrat to hold the office of judge of this district. After defeating Judge Hubbard, he served from January, 1877, to January, 1881. He died in Atchison March 2, 1901. He was a good lawyer, a capable judge, and well liked by the bar and the people. At the end of his first term he was renominat-



ed by his party, but defeated by the large Republican majority of the district and gave way to

**David Martin**, of Atchison, who served the people of Nemaha county faithfully and well from January, 1881, until the formation of the new Twenty-second district, composed of Nemaha, Brown and Doniphan counties, in 1886, leaving him in charge of the old Second judicial district, composed of Atchison county alone, which he continued to serve as judge for many years thereafter. There never has been a district judge on the bench of this county that has commanded a greater universal respect from both the bar and the people. He did not have a particularly active and alert mind and might be termed a "plodder" but was of a kindly disposition, careful and very conscientious in his methods, dispatched business satisfactorily and seldom failed to arrive at the correct results. His judicial temperament and methods were almost beyond criticism. To the casual observer he had few attractions; short of stature, very fleshy and waddled as he walked, cheeks flabby and forehead low and retreating and not fluent of speech, the first impression would naturally be that he was dull, yet he plodded steadily on and upward, from student to practitioner, from justice of the peace to district judge and thence up the ladder of fame and usefulness to the highest judicial office in the State, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Kansas, which he graced with dignity and learning, and while ascending the judicial ladder, by his kindly consideration for the rights of others he won the universal love and confidence of all who knew him and became the ideal man and judge, worthy to be imitated by one and all. He died in Atchison, Kans., several years ago.

**Reuben C. Bassett**, of Seneca, Kans., a member of the Nemaha county bar, was a member of the State legislature in 1886 and was largely instrumental in having the law passed creating the new Twenty-second judicial district, and was rewarded by being appointed its first judge by the governor. His appointment dated February 25, 1886, to fill the vacancy and was reelected and served to the end of the term, in January, 1891, when he retired and moved to Chicago, Ill., where he engaged in the wholesale lumber trade, also practiced law there and later removed to Oklahoma, where he now resides. He was a well informed, scholarly and capable lawyer and judge and his career on the bench was highly satisfactory to his constituents. His successor,

**John F. Thompson**, of Seneca and the Nemaha county bar, was elected on a fusion ticket of the Democrats and Populists, over Simon L. Ryan, of Hiawatha, Kans., the Republican nominee, and served his four years' term, beginning January, 1891, and ending January, 1895, when he resumed the practice of law at Seneca and afterward removed to Iola, where he died. At both Seneca and Iola his son, William Howard Thompson, now United States Senator of Kansas, was his law partner. Judge Thompson presided with dignity, was careful and deliberate, and courteous to all, and his administration tended to elevate the dignity of the

bench and inspire confidence of the people in the laws. The great Populist wave at the end of his first term had subsided and while he was a candidate for reelection on the Democratic ticket he was defeated at the polls by

**Rufus M. Emery**, of the Seneca bar, then State senator from his district and a member of the Nemaha county bar since 1877, whose term began in January, 1895 and ended in January, 1899. He was elected at the age of forty years, after an active experience as practitioner, county attorney for six years and State senator for four years. He is the writer of this article and his natural modesty forbids that he should place an estimate of his record on the bench, but he can truthfully state that his four years' term as judge, was the most pleasant and satisfactory business of his life to him: that he was received and treated with courtesy and respect by the bar and the people of his district, among whom he formed many lifelong friendships, which he still values and cherishes. He retired from the bench under pressure from the politicians, with a high regard for the honesty, integrity and ability of the bar of the district and resumed the practice of law with his son, R. M. Emery, Jr., as his partner, at Seneca, Kans., where he still resides and is in the active practice of his profession. He was succeeded by

**William I. Stuart**, of Troy, now of Hiawatha, Kans., January, 1899, who, as the Republican nominee of his party, defeated James Fallon of Hiawatha, Kans., and has been reelected and served continuously as judge, to the present time and holds the record for continuous service on the bench of the district, which is the highest evidence of the fact that his administration of the office has been satisfactory to the people, and his quick, active, judicial mind has secured to all, speedy and impartial justice during his long service in office. In 1912, he contested the nomination of representative in Congress in the Republican primaries of this district, with Hon. D. R. Anthony, Jr., but failed of nomination and is now favorably spoken of as a candidate for Justice of the Supreme Court.

## DISTRICT CLERKS.

A very important office in connection with the "Bench" and "Bar" of each county, is clerk of the district court. Not only should this officer be a person of intelligence, methodical and of good clerical ability, but as large sums of money are paid in and disbursed through this office, he or she should be honest and capable with confidence in themselves to discharge the manifold duties required of them, by the court and the law, very often crowding upon them, in the most bewildering and complex manner, likely to disturb the equilibrium of the ordinary person. Nemaha county has been fortunate in securing such persons, many of whom have been of the gentler sex. The following is a list of such clerks in the order they have served since the State was organized and the reader will recognize among them many old friends and business as-

sociates: J. C. Hebbard, O. C. Bruner, William Histed, Abijah Wells, Wm. R. Wells, J. H. Williams, George Gould, G. R. Benedict, Jas. H. Gleason, H. B. Crary, D. M. Linn, J. D. Magill, Miss Blanche Magill, Miss Lulu Ervin, J. E. Neighbor, Miss Mable Worley.

### SHERIFFS.

What has been said of the clerks of the district court is also true of the sheriff, who, under the direction of the presiding judge, has the general supervision of the court room, the process and orders of the court and who is specially charged with preserving the order and tranquility of the county, the suppression of crime and the apprehension and safe keeping of those charged and convicted of crime. In this office is required a personal and moral courage, practical common sense and a clear and active executive mind that will insure speedy and intelligent action, in pursuing and arresting criminals and securing the rigid enforcement of all laws, without fear or favor, with a due regard to the interests of the State, the people and the rights of the accused. We believe the essential requirements of this office have been exercised by the sheriffs who have served the county since the organization of the State, a list of whom is given in the chapter on county organization.

### COUNTY ATTORNEYS.

Early in the history of Kansas, the present duties of county attorneys were incumbent on a prosecuting attorney of the entire judicial district, who accompanied the judge on his circuit through the counties and prosecuted all criminal cases. The first three in the list below were prosecuting attorneys. The county attorney's duties consist in advising the county and other officers as to their duties under the law, representing the county in all civil cases and he has charge of all violations of law and the prosecution of offenders in the courts of the county. The faithful and efficient discharge of his duties are of the utmost importance to society, the welfare of the community and the security of the individual in his personal and property rights. Nearly all the leading lawyers of this bar have in times past, served as county attorney and their efficient service is largely responsible for the present quiet, orderly, law abiding and law loving condition of society in this county, at this time. In the order they have served we name them in the chapter on county organization.

### PROBATE JUDGES.

There is no county office so important and filled with greater responsibilities as that of probate judge. Once in a lifetime all the property in the county comes under his jurisdiction, and the title thereto is likely to be affected by his acts and decisions. He has supervision and con-

trol, through his appointed administrators, executors, trustees and estates of all deceased persons and those incompetent to transact their business. The unfortunate insane, imbecile, drunkard and incorrigible children must be tried and adjudged such, in his court and he has "Habeas Corpus" jurisdiction to determine whether any one is illegally restrained of his liberty and to determine the custody of children and incorrigibles. It is very necessary that his records and proceedings be accurate, methodical and lawful and that no error, by carelessness, may appear on his records to cast a cloud on the title of the real estate of the county. He should not only be clear headed, conscientious and a practical man of good judgment, but should have a legal education and a thorough knowledge of the law to insure the fullest protection to the widows, orphans and unfortunates as the law contemplates. Nemaha county has been most fortunate, in the selections of her probate judges. We have had some that were lacking in these requirements, but fortunately no very serious consequences have occurred. Self interest should demand of every elector that the judiciary be kept out of politics and that they select and vote for the best and most capable candidate for this most important office. Space forbids special mention but we give in the chapter on county organization the list of Probate Judges and the date of the beginning of their respective terms.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

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### THE BENCH AND BAR.

(Continued.)

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THE BAR—A LAWYER'S DUTY—HIS WORK—RESIDENT LAWYERS—NEMAHA ATTORNEYS WHO HAVE ATTAINED DISTINCTION—EXPERIENCES OF LAWYERS—SENATOR INGALLS—CASES—EARLY JURIES—IMPORTANT CASES—LOUIS LORIMER AND REGIS LOISEL TITLES—RAILROAD BOND CASE—NOTED CRIMINAL CASES—STATE VS. BLANCETT—STATE VS. JOHN CRAIG—STATE VS. CARTER AND WINTERS—STATE VS. WILTON BAUGHN—STATE VS. MRS. FRANK MCDOWELL—STATE VS. THOMAS RAMSEY—STATE VS. FRED KUHN.

By Judge Rufus M. Emery.

#### THE BAR.

"Here is to bride and mother-in-law,  
Here is to groom and father-in-law,  
Here is to friends and friends-in-law.  
May none of them need an attorney-at-law."

—Toast to legal fraternity

The legal profession is now and always has been the foremost of all the professions, in practical and political life. While the necessity for their service is to be lamented and avoided when possible, as the doctor and dentist and many others, yet in times of trouble and discord, civil and criminal, the lawyer is the first sought and his counsel and advice most strictly followed, on account of the importance of the service and the confidence of his client in his knowledge, integrity and ability to protect them in their rights under the law. From this profession there have risen to distinction, more eminent and prominent statesmen and leaders of men, than from all the other professions and avocations of life combined, notwithstanding they number a very small per cent. of the aggregate population. Many lawyers of strong, vigorous intellects and natural tact and ability have won laurels and met with considerable success at the bar, without having the advantage of a moderate common school education, yet they are the exception to the rule and it has always been deemed essential and it is now a requirement, that before they will be re-

ceived as students in the law universities, they must have a liberal education in the arts and sciences as a foundation upon which to build a correct knowledge and proper understanding of the many intricate and important principles of the law and apply them in a practical way to the affairs of men, so that they will be enabled to advise and so represent their clients' interest, as to secure to them their rights of persons and property under the law. The relation of attorney and client is one of the strictest trust and confidence and while the pessimistic and frivolous are wont to regard lightly these close relations and question the honest and faithful service of attorneys, in the interests of their clients and consider the same as purely selfish and class them as "tricksters," yet the occasions are very rare, when the attorney does not act in the utmost good faith, toward his client and put forth every honorable means to advance his interests at a great personal sacrifice and labor. My observation at the bar generally is that they allow their zeal for their clients to lead them to extreme methods which subject them to just criticism.

An attorney-at-law is an officer of the court, acting under his oath of office. He is expected to present his client's case in its most favorable light both as to the law and the evidence, that the court—judge and jury—may be fully informed and render a fair and impartial decision according to the law and the evidence. That the litigants may have equal and exact protection under the law; that false evidence may be exposed, erroneous ideas of the law may be eliminated and all feelings of passion, prejudice and favoritism may be laid aside, in the decision of the case. With the zealous attorney on guard as to his client's interests, the court carefully expounding the law applicable to the case and the jury, selected from the common people to weigh the evidence, from a common sense basis, the false testimony of the witnesses is usually detected, technicalities are ignored and a righteous and just verdict or decision is usually obtained. There is no profession more satisfactory to the individual practitioner than the legal profession. He comes equipped with a liberal education, giving him a broad and comprehensive view of life and the relation of things. He is especially versed in the best known and approved principles of government and the rights of persons and property and all the rules and methods of securing and preserving them in all their simplicity and purity. He has the confidence and esteem of his clients and there comes to him in the practice of his profession, an intimate knowledge of his fellow beings, their joys, sorrows, disappointments and triumphs, their passions and prejudices, weaknesses and despair; all that is good and all that is evil in the human heart and mind is laid before him through his privileged and sacred relations and with all these opportunities, he may form a correct knowledge and philosophy of life that is indeed a satisfaction and enables him to be a great help to his fellows. Below is a list of the resident attorneys of the county who have practiced in the district court in the order that their names first appear on the court records: Samuel Lappin, Thos. S. Wright, Haven Star, J. E. Hock-

er, J. P. Taylor, J. E. Taylor, William Histed, Wm. F. Wells, Charles Kroff, Abijah Wells, E. M. Sappenfield, R. D. Markham, G. W. Collins, Joseph Sharp, Simon Conwell, W. W. Sargent, C. W. Edgar, C. I. Scofield, W. D. B. Motter, Levi Dinkelfield, George Gowdy, J. E. Purnell, M. P. M. Cassity, R. C. Bassett, A. M. Flint, S. W. Brooks, Elwin Campfield, Don J. Perry, A. C. Cook, T. J. Hayes, R. M. Emery, C. E. Hendry, W. D. Kistler, C. C. K. Scoville, J. F. Curren, A. L. Coleman, O. H. Stillson, G. W. Clawson, Joshua Mitchell, George Puhl, J. A. McCall, J. F. Thompson, R. T. Thompson, Frank E. Smith, J. T. Campbell, H. G. Stewart, G. W. Wren, Chas. H. Herold, J. W. Cunnick, Howard Thompson, A. J. Felt, E. G. Wilson, P. L. Burlingame, E. L. Miller, Frank Wells, Jas. L. Breeding, Geo. W. Hook, J. E. Stillwell, N. S. Smith, S. K. Woodworth, Charles H. Stewart, F. A. Meckel, R. T. Ludlow, A. A. Brooks, Wm. H. Thompson, Nathan Jones, J. G. Schofield, Ira K. Wells, Moulton DeForest, Wm. M. Taylor, John Stowell, W. W. Simon, F. W. Jacobs, W. R. Jacobs, H. R. Fulton, O. H. Mack, M. L. McIntire, W. T. Behne, W. H. Cook, Frank L. Geary, S. P. Nold, R. M. Emery Jr., H. M. Baldwin, Edgar W. Campbell, and Chas. F. Schrepp.

Of the above list of resident attorneys many have reached distinction: Samuel Lappin was State treasurer; Abijah Wells was judge of the Appellate Court of Kansas; R. C. Bassett, J. F. Thompson, R. M. Emery and F. A. Meckel have each been district judge of the State; Byron Sherry was judge of the Criminal Court of Leavenworth; Wm. H. Thompson is the present United States Senator from Kansas; A. J. Felt was Lieutenant Governor of Kansas and quite a number have been Probate judges and members of the State senate and house of representatives. Nemaha has always had a strong, capable bar, fully equipped to defend their clients' interests against all foreign attorneys from wherever they came. They have not only been capable and energetic, but from the first organization of the State until the present moment there is no record that any one of them has ever betrayed a client, or been guilty of any serious professional misconduct. Many very prominent attorneys of the State have practiced at the bar of this county and been prominent in State and National affairs: F. P. Baker, when a young man was the first prosecuting attorney of this district, and was afterward editor and proprietor of the Topeka "Commonwealth," now the "Daily Capital." Albert H. Horton and David Martin, both of Atchison, were chief justices of the Supreme Court of the State. W. W. Guthrie, of Atchison, was the first attorney general of Kansas. John J. Ingalls was many terms a United States Senator from Kansas, president pro tem. of the United States Senate and an orator and statesman of national reputation. C. G. Foster was for years United States district judge of Kansas; George W. Glick was governor of this commonwealth; Lucien Baker, of Leavenworth, was our United States senator from Kansas; George R. Peck, of Topeka, was United States district attorney for Kansas and general attorney for the Santa Fe railroad system; W. R. Smith, of At-

chison, was justice of the Supreme Court of Kansas and resigned to accept the attorneyship of the Santa Fe railroad; T. F. Garver was judge of the Appellate Court of Kansas, and Balie Waggener, of Atchison, and present State senator, is general attorney of the Missouri Pacific railway system.

The life of an attorney is not always a bed of roses and this was particularly true of the pioneer lawyer in advance of the carriage, railroads and motor cars, when the legal practitioner often traveled on foot or horseback to the neighboring county seats to try his cases. The population was scant, drouths and grasshoppers plentiful and money almost unknown and the attorney, in common with the other inhabitants, endured every privation. Once a stranger sought the services of an attorney and handed him a silver dollar as a fee, when he jocularly remarked, "they still make them round." The early life and habits of the first settlers were "rough and ready," with open saloons and the unrestricted sale of liquor, a large adventurous criminal element, migrated from the Eastern States, passionate, impulsive, quick to take offense and ready and willing to use the scathing tongue, their fists and weapons on slight provocation and some of the time of the early attorney was consumed in avoiding unnecessary controversy in conciliating their adversaries, or hiding out and avoiding or dodging fists, clubs, knives or bullets. It required courage then to plead an unpopular cause and defend a client against an excited public sentiment, but the courage of the attorney was equal to that of the populace and justice was dealt out principally through the courts but often by mob violence. As an example of the spirit of these turbulent times and the vigorous language and methods employed by those high in authority we cite the following. Byron Sherry, a leading member of this bar, and State senator from this district, had voted against the re-election of Senator Lane to the United States senate and in a political speech in Seneca before his fellow-townsmen Senator Lane denounced Senator Sherry for his opposition and legislative conduct. Amidst great excitement Senator Sherry quickly and hotly retorted, "Senator Lane, you are a liar and a coward and you were publicly horse-whipped by a woman on the streets of Washington!" Early in the history of the county an amusing incident occurred in the court room over a saloon, when Judge Nathan Price, fond of his "dram," at all intermissions of the court, which he sometimes created for the purpose, was presiding as judge. Senator John J. Ingalls was in the midst of an eloquent speech to the jury, when Judge Price, suddenly and without apparent excuse or reason, declared a recess and made a "bee line" for the saloon below, thus breaking the effect of Ingalls' address. He stopped, looked up at the vacant bench, as though bewildered, back at the jury, and again at the retiring judge, and turning again to the jury, with a merry twinkle in his eye and assuming a confidential hoarse whisper, that could be heard throughout the room said, with a broad smile, "Let's all go and take a drink." Amidst a roar of laughter the suggestion was acted upon and the judge "set 'em up."



At another time Senator Ingalls was defending a citizen of the county in a preliminary examination, charged with being the father of an illegitimate child. The interest of course was great, the room small and packed, the air intolerable. Ingalls was cross-examining the unfortunate mother and a prominent merchant crowded against his chair and was about to unseat him, when, with a merry twinkle in his eye he continued the cross-examination with the question, Madame, were you not on terms of intimacy with this gentleman?" (pointing to the interested and obtrusive citizen). Amid a roar of laughter, the over curious citizen ducked and retired and selecting other victims, he put the same question, with the same result, until the court room was sufficiently cleared. On the trial of this case in the district court, J. E. Taylor and Simon Conwell prosecuting and Senator Ingalls defending, the illegitimate child because fretful and noisy and with screams stopped all court proceedings, when Ingalls arose with a show of dignity and annoyance and dryly remarked, "Would the Court please require Taylor and Conwell to remove their child from the courtroom?" A roar of laughter in which all joined drowned the cries of the child. Recently Judge Stuart was examining a German applicant for admission to citizenship and in endeavoring to test his knowledge of public affairs and having Roosevelt in mind, asked him to name the most distinguished citizen of the United States of whom he could think, and he promptly replied, "Shiley Herolt," casting an admiring glance at our good natured, popular attorney, Charles H. Herold, who beamed his approval. At another time, in endeavoring to test the fairness, impartiality and lack of prejudice, or favor, of a German juror, he was asked, "Notwithstanding the fact that Charles Herold is the lawyer for one of the parties, and his client is a German and the other party is not, do you think you can render a fair and impartial verdict in the case and not show any partiality or favor?" To which he replied, "Yah, I stand by Herolt und der Deutch!"

There has been filed in the office of the Clerk of the District Court, since the organization of the State, 2,930 civil cases and 773 criminal cases, of almost every kind and nature known to the law, some of a trifling character that should never have found their way there and many of great importance and involving large sums of money, great property values and personal rights of the highest necessity to the citizen. The first grand and petit jury was drawn for the November term of the District court of Nemaha county, in 1861, and consisted of the following well known early settlers, a few of whom still live, and their descendants still residing in the county are very numerous: Samuel Dennis, Hiram Channel, S. B. Dodge, Elias B. Church, James Larew, John Callahan, John Short, Hiram Berger, Joseph W. Dennis, Moses Blanchett, H. L. Alkire, J. P. Brown, Eli Blankley, Thomas Carlin, John Kilmer, William Histed, H. A. Good, W. N. Cassity, Peter Hamilton, William Hickley, James Randel, John Roe, John Beamer, C. C. Morton, Patrick Howard, Martin Randel, Augustus Wolfley, John Downs, T. A. Canmpfield, Jacob

Geyer, E. D. Gross, Geo. D. Searles, Samuel Allen, B. H. Job, Frank Brown, William Porter, David Armstrong, William Z. Carpenter, H. Grimes, Isaac H. Steirs, John Rodgers, John Hicks, W. W. Shepherd, Joseph Coleman, Larkin Cordell, Jacob Shumaker, G. D. Baker, John Bowman, Samuel Currier and Charles W. Nations.

### IMPORTANT CASES.

The space allotted forbids the mention of but few of the many important cases tried by the "Bench and Bar" of Nemaha county. The original title of most of the lands of the county, came through the Homestead law, from the United States Government in small tracts to actual early settlers, but there were some exceptions. The Central Branch of the Union Pacific Railway (now the Missouri Pacific), as an inducement and bonus for building this railroad and opening up the western prairies, received from the United States Government \$16,000 per mile for 100 miles west of Atchison, Kans., and a patent title to each alternate section for ten miles each side of their railroad, which aggregated \$1,600,000 and 640,000 acres of land, for which they paid the Government price of \$1.25 per acre.

**The Louis Lorimer and Regis Loisel Titles.**—While the territory comprising the State of Kansas was a Spanish possession in 1800 and a part of the territory known as Upper Louisiana and before the United States acquired the same from France in 1803, Regis Loisel, a fur trader of St. Louis, by grant from Spain, acquired the right to locate 44,800 Spanish Arpens of land (38,111 acres) in this territory, and Louis Lorimer acquired a like grant to locate 25,500 acres. By an act of Congress these Spanish grants were recognized and confirmed, and the heirs and representatives of these parties were given the right to locate lands in Nemaha, Marshall, Pottawatomie and Marion counties, Kansas, to the amount of the respective grants aforesaid at the Government price of \$1.25 per acre. The lands were duly located and the heirs and representatives of these parties were allowed to receive patent title to such lands, a large portion being in Nemaha county. These heirs had become numerous, widely scattered and many had transferred their interests, become incapacitated from transferring and there were many minors and the title had become greatly complicated and clouded. In 1870 the heirs of Louis Lorimer and in 1872 the Regis Loisel heirs commenced suits in Nemaha county to settle and determine the interests of the respective heirs to this vast amount of land and to partition the same. The ablest lawyers of Kansas and Missouri took part in these suits and after protracted litigation, the titles to all these lands were quieted and made good and the complicated interests adjusted by decrees of our court, and the land began to be sold to actual settlers. Many of the readers will find that the title to their farms rests on these important records and court proceedings.

**Railroad Bond Case.**—Nemaha county never had any bonded indebtedness. An attempt was made to bond it at one time, which perhaps in justice and as a matter of right should have been done, but it failed through a technicality. In 1866, there were two railroad corporations existing, one styled the St. Joseph & Denver City Railroad Company and another, the Northern Kansas Railroad Company, each organized to construct a railroad from Elwood, Doniphan county, Kansas, to Marysville, Kans., and authorized to receive subscriptions to its capital stock from Nemaha county. The county commissioners of this county submitted the question of subscribing \$125,000 to the capital stock of the Northern Kansas Railroad Company and issuing bonds in like amount to pay for the same to the electors of the county, and the proposition was carried by a pronounced majority and so declared by the canvassing board. In the following October the two railroads aforesaid consolidated as one under the name of the St. Joseph & Denver City Railroad Company, which completed the road and demanded the bonds of the county commissioners, who refused to issue them and the railroad company instituted a suit to compel them to issue the same. But the Supreme Court of the State, in 10 Kansas, page 569, held that the county commissioners were only authorized to subscribe for and issue bonds to the Northern Kansas Railroad company and that the new company, the St. Joseph & Denver City Railroad Company, could not claim the bonds. The county got the railroad and were not compelled to issue the bonds. The capital stock afterward proved to be worthless and the county was saved, by the efforts of the county commissioners and the county attorneys advising them and conducting the defense to this suit.

#### NOTED CRIMINAL CASES.

**The State of Kansas vs. Josiah Blancett.**—Josiah Blancett was charged with the murder of Thompson Wilson, and this was the first case tried by jury in this county, in 1862, before Judge Graham. On account of a defective indictment, the State could not be allowed to introduce evidence of the venue, or place where the murder was committed, and the defendant was acquitted, by the jury and defendant discharged by reason of this technicality.

**State of Kansas vs. John Craig.**—On October 10, 1864, in the immediate vicinity of Seneca, John Craig and Joseph H. Nichols, had a personal dispute, in which Nichols became enraged and assuming a threatening attitude, applying insulting epithets to Craig, who drew his revolver and shot Nichols dead on the spot. Craig was arrested and taken before a justice of the peace and on his preliminary examination was discharged on a plea of self defense. Nothing further was ever done in the matter.

**The State of Kansas vs. Miles R. Carter and Milton R. Winters.**—On February 23, 1865, John H. Blevins, of Holt county, Missouri, accompanied by Edgar Nuzam, of Doniphan county, Kansas, came to Seneca

in search of two horses stolen in Missouri and thought to be in the possession of A. M. Smith, a liveryman of Seneca. Being acquainted with C. G. Scrafford, a merchant of Seneca, they went to him for information and assistance, and Scrafford went with them to Smith's stable, and as they approached Carter and Winters mounted on the stolen horses preparing to leave. Nuzam inquired of Blevins if these horses were his, and being assured they were, ordered the thieves to stop and drew his revolver to enforce his order. A. M. Smith drew his revolver and fired, first at Nuzam and then at Blevins, the latter being shot in the left side and the ball passing through his lungs, from which shot he died in a few hours. While this was occurring Carter and Winters rode away but were thrown from their horses, which returned to the stable, followed by the horse thieves where Winters fired several shots at Nuzam without effect. At this time William Boulton, the sheriff, was absent from the county, and amidst the excitement the three guilty parties, Carter, Winters and Smith, escaped. On February 27, 1865, on the return of Sheriff Boulton, Miles N. Carter was arrested and returned to Nemaha county, and brought before John Furrow, justice of the peace, for examination, and the case was continued until the next day, and Carter was taken to jail for safe keeping. About 11 o'clock on that night a mob of two score or more overpowered the guard, George Monroe, took the prisoner eight miles north of Seneca on the banks of the Nemaha river near Baker's Ford, where his body was found next morning hanging to the limb of a tree. A coroner's inquest was held, but no arrests were made. Horse thieves were shown no quarters in those days. It was generally conceded that the Anti Horse Thief Association, composed of our best citizens, dealt out the punishment Carter so richly deserved.

March 6, 1865, Milton R. Winters was arrested by the city marshal of Atchison, Kans., returned to Nemaha county, tried and convicted before a jury, and on May 11, 1866 was sentenced by Judge St. Clair on two charges, one for second degree murder in aiding, abetting and assisting A. M. Smith, in the murder of John H. Blevins, for the term of fifteen years, and another on a plea of guilty for assault with intent to kill Edgar Nuzam for the term of ten years.

A. M. Smith escaped legal retribution, as he was never heard from thereafter. He left a wife and two young sons at Seneca, all becoming respectable citizens.

**The State of Kansas vs. Wilton Baughn.**—On November 12, 1866, four men came to Seneca with a team, wagon and three loose horses. The horses afterward proved to have been stolen by them at Elwood, Doniphan county, Kansas. November 19, three pursuers arrived in Seneca and procuring warrants located these men ten miles west of Seneca on the Vermilion, but made no arrest, and returned to Seneca and procured the sheriff and a small force, again started out to make the arrest, going north to intercept them. Soon after their departure the four men passed through Seneca, stopping east of the town. Here they divided; two of

them named Jackson and Strange remaining where they were, and being arrested, while the other two, Baughn and Mooney, started on foot eastward. The sheriff, with a posse, pursued and overtook them on the Capioma road at the crossing of the Muddy.

Three of the pursuers, Charles W. Ingram, Henry H. Hillix and Jesse S. Dennis, were in advance of the rest, and on seeing the men, road up to them, Ingram remarking "We have come for you." At this one of the men, having a double barreled shot gun, discharged both barrels at Ingram, neither of which took effect. The other one had two revolvers, and shot at both Hillix and Dennis, one shot passing through Hillix's clothing, another striking him just below the shoulder blade, making a severe but not dangerous wound. Hillix returned the fire but without effect.

Dennis received a bullet in the back, which passed diagonally through the body, through the lungs and in close proximity to the heart, producing death in a few moments. The man with the gun jumped into an adjoining corn field, and again fired at Ingram, who jumped from his horse and thus avoided the shot. Both men escaped. A proclamation was at once issued offering a reward of a thousand dollars for the delivery of the body of Baughn and Mooney to the legal authorities of the county within ninety days, and giving a description of both desperadoes.

On January 6, 1867, Melvin Baughn, the chief offender in the tragedy, was arrested in Leavenworth, on a description or warrant sent from St. Joseph, for a gang of burglars who had robbed a store in Wathena a few days before. Upon being recognized as the murderer of Dennis he was delivered to the authorities of this county and lodged in jail, a preliminary examination held, and Baughn bound over to await trial at the next term of the district court. On January 10, an unsuccessful attempt was made to lynch Baughn, but was stopped by citizens and compromised by the crowd appointing a deputy sheriff to have special charge of the prisoner, until his trial. On February 6, Baughn with another prisoner confined in the jail succeeded in forcing open the doors and escaping, taking arms and ammunition found in the passage of the jail.

Efforts were made for his recapture, which were unsuccessful until June, 1868, and then only due to the fugitive's committal to lesser crimes than the one for which he was wanted in Nemaha county. On May 25, 1868, a house was robbed at Sedalia, Mo.; the next day a suspicious looking carpet bag was expressed by someone to Joseph King, Otterville. Officers there were posted, but in endeavoring to make the arrest of King, wounded him severely, but nevertheless allowed him to escape for the time being, capturing him, disabled by his wound, two days after he was shot. It was then discovered that the prisoner going under the name of Joseph King was the notorious Baughn, the murderer of Dennis, and he was legally returned to Seneca on June 27, and committed to jail. His trial commenced on August 2, 1868, for the murder of Jesse S. Dennis, and was concluded August 6, the jury returning a verdict of

guilty, and on the next day Judge Graham pronounced the death sentence that he be hanged September 18, 1868. The sentence was duly carried into effect at 3 o'clock p. m. of that day in the court yard in the city of Seneca. The prisoner showed extraordinary nerve at the approach of death and magnanimously forgave the community who had "tyrannized" over him, attributing their ill-feeling to "ignorance and bad whiskey." He also acknowledged his reconciliation to God, but showed no remorse of conscience. Thus ended the Dennis murder case with the first and only judicial execution the county has known.

**The State of Kansas vs. Mrs. Frank McDowell.**—March 14, 1896, Mrs. Frank McDowell was acquitted by a jury in the district court, on the charge of murdering her husband, Frank McDowell, Judge R. M. Emery presiding.

On February 6, 1896, Frank McDowell died in Goff, Kans., after a short illness, in great misery and with convulsions. Suspicion attached to his second wife, Mrs. Frank McDowell, and on an analysis of the stomach and liver of the deceased, arsenic was discovered in fatal quantities. Mrs. McDowell was arrested and held for trial on the charge of murdering her husband. The above facts were shown on the trial with evidence of a confession which was strenuously denied. There was also evidence that might warrant the conclusion of the jury that the presence of the arsenic might be due to the medicine administered by the attending doctor, or self administered by the deceased. While the court was of the opinion that she was guilty, the general public sentiment was in her favor, and the jury resolved the reasonable doubt in favor of the accused.

**The State of Kansas vs. Thomas Ramsey.**—On the morning of January 30, 1900, Laura B. Ramsey, an old widow lady, living alone in a small house in the city of Sabetha, was found dead in bed, lying on her back, her body and limbs composed, and her hands neatly crossed on her breast, as if carefully "laid out" with no evidence of a struggle. A doctor was called and it was found by injuries to her neck and throat that she had been choked to death the night before. Her son, Thomas J. Ramsey, living near with his wife and children, being naturally quarrelsome and it being known that he had had serious trouble with his mother, was suspicioned and arrested but discharged for want of sufficient evidence by J. E. Corwin, justice of the peace, at a preliminary examination held on the complaint of James Shintaffer, a son-in-law of Mrs. Ramsey.

On his discharge, Thomas Ramsey instituted a civil suit for malicious prosecution and large damages against his brother-in-law, which re-agitated the tragedy, and through the aid of detectives additional evidence was procured, Ramsey re-arrested and held to answer a charge of murder in the first degree of his mother. A closely contested trial was had in the district court, and he was by a jury found guilty of murder in the second degree, and on March 21, 1901, sentenced to confinement and hard labor in the State penitentiary for life, where he still remains. From

facts proven and developed after the trial it was well established that Thomas Ramsey was not a well balanced man mentally or morally; that he had been persistent in endeavoring to get money from his mother; that on the Sunday night of her death, while his family was at church, he went to her home alone and endeavored to get money from her, that he claimed he should rightly have; that a quarrel ensued, and in an extreme fit of passion he choked her to death, probably unintentionally, and composed and arranged the body on the bed where it was found.

**The State of Kansas vs. Fred Kuhn.**—On August 27, 1910, at a school meeting south of Corning, Kans., a terrible tragedy occurred in which William Blissner was shot and mortally wounded by Fred Kuhn and died in a few hours. His father, F. A. Blissner, was struck across the head with a board, by a brother of Fred, causing the loss of an eye. It seems there were hard feelings existing between the Blissners and the Kuhns, which broke out in a fierce quarrel after a school meeting. The elder Blissner became violent and threatening, and the Kuhns, two brothers and two sisters, endeavored to retire to their wagon to return home. Three of them had gotten into the wagon, when F. A. Blissner unhooked the traces of Kuhns' team, attempted to strike August Kuhn with the neck-yoke, when he was felled by a board in the hands of August Kuhn, causing the loss of an eye. While this was occurring Fred Kuhn had been intercepted, and pressed back some distance from his team by William Blissner, who was threatening violent injury. The evidence was quite contradictory but the theory of the defense on behalf of Fred Kuhn was that he had been pushed back and attacked and struck with a board and fell to his knees, whereupon he drew his pistol which he had at the meeting and fired killing William Blissner, in self defense. There was evidence that conditions were such as to render the shooting unjustifiable. The jury by their verdict found Fred Kuhn guilty of murder in the second degree, and he was sentenced by Judge Stuart to the penitentiary for a period of ten years. Soon after his incarceration he was "made a trusty" and afterwards paroled.

## CHAPTER XXV.

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### COUNTY ORGANIZATION AND OFFICIAL ROSTER.

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FIRST ELECTION—BOGUS LEGISLATURE—COUNTY CREATED—FIRST OFFICERS—MEMBERS ELECTED TO SECOND AND THIRD TERRITORIAL LEGISLATURE—COUNTY OFFICERS ELECTED IN 1859—FIRST COURT HOUSE—FIRST TERM OF COURT—DISTRICT JUDGE—GRAND JURY—AN IMPORTANT CASE—TOWNSHIPS—COUNCIL—STATE SENATORS—TERRITORIAL REPRESENTATIVES—STATE REPRESENTATIVES—SHERIFFS—COUNTY CLERKS—REGISTRARS OF DEEDS—COUNTY TREASURERS—PROBATE JUDGES—SUPERINTENDENTS OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION—CLERKS OF DISTRICT COURT—COUNTY COMMISSIONERS—COUNTY SURVEYORS—CORONERS—COUNTY ATTORNEYS—COUNTY ASSESSORS.

By Ira K. Wells.

The first election held in the county was on March 30, 1855, for members of council, and representatives to the Territorial legislature. There were ten council districts with thirteen members, and fourteen representative districts with twenty-six members. Nemaha precinct with Wolf River and Doniphan constituted the Seventh Council district, and the Eleventh Representative district. The entire vote of the district, 478 ballots, was cast for John W. Foreman, a merchant, a native of Kentucky, and a resident of the Territory for twelve years. The vote of Nemaha precinct was sixty-one. The representatives chosen were: R. L. Kirk, a nine months' resident, and John H. Stringfellow, who had been in the Territory for one year. Nemaha precinct gave the former fifty, and the later, forty-eight votes. At this election George H. Baker, Jesse Adamson and Samuel Cramer were judges; Samuel Crozier and Thomas Cramer, clerks. Most of the voters were non-residents, the following being the list of those actually entitled to the right of suffrage: W. W. Moore, W. D. Beeles, George H. Baker, Jesse Adamson, Samuel Cramer, Samuel Crozier, Samuel L. Miller, William Bunker, Thomas Newton, Horace M. Newton, H. H. Lanham, John O'Laughlin, Greenberry Key and Uriah Blue.

The legislature convened on the first Monday in July. Its acts took effect as soon as they were passed, being now best known as the "Bogus Laws of Kansas." Among other things, provision was made



for the organization of nineteen counties in the Territory, including that of Nemaha, the boundaries of which were defined, as they have been given, and as they now exist.

Cyrus Dolman was appointed probate judge; James E. Thompson, sheriff, the latter being soon superseded by James E. Hill, and Edwin Van Endert, county treasurer. The first county commissioners were Jesse Adamson, of Nemaha township; David P. Magill, of Capioma township, and Peter Hamilton, of Red Vermillion township. Richmond was made the temporary county seat, remaining the official business center until 1858, when the county seat question was decided by the people.



COURT HOUSE, SENECA, KANS.

October 6, 1856, the pro-slavery men held an election, at which Cyrus Dolman was elected a member of the second Territorial legislature, receiving twelve votes. At this time the counties of Doniphan, Brown, Nemaha, Marshall, Riley and Pottawatomie, constituted the council district, and those of Nemaha and Brown the representative district. October 5, 1857, the former of these elected Benjamin Harding,

of Doniphan, and Andrew F. Mead, of Riley; the fourth representative district choosing E. N. Morrill, of Brown county. The members of the council held office for two years, the representatives for one session only. This, the third Territorial legislature, placed Nemaha county with Brown, Pottawatomie, Marshall and Washington in the fifth council district; constituting Brown county the eighth, and Nemaha the tenth representative district. When it came to the election of State senators and representatives, the districts were again changed, Nemaha being at present associated with Marshall in the election of senator, and herself entitled to two representatives. In the official roster which follows, no further account is made of these changes, the list merely showing Nemaha's representation, whether solely her own or in conjunction with other counties. The first election for county officers was held November 8, 1859, the incumbents prior to that time holding their position by appointment. Samuel Lappin had been registrar of deeds; R. N. Torrey performed the duties of county clerk, clerk of the district court, and succeeded Edwin Van Endert as county treasurer. The probate judges from 1855 had been, in the order named, Cyrus Dolman, Morton Cave and Haven Starr. J. C. Hebbard, and subsequently J. W. Fuller were county superintendents of public instruction, the former making the first annual report of school matters of the county to Samuel W. Greer, Territorial superintendent.

The election resulted as follows. County clerk, R. U. Torrey; county treasurer, Charles F. Warren; registrar of deeds, Samuel Lappin; sheriff, John S. Rogers; county superintendent, J. W. Fuller; probate judge, Haven Starr.

The first court house stood on lot 4, block 74, on Main street. It was a small two story frame building, the lower room of which was used for general meeting purposes, and the upper part by the county officers. In December, 1860, it was burnt. A building for court purposes, but too small for county offices, was at once erected, on the corner of Main and Castle streets, in Seneca, and in this the first term of district court in Nemaha county was held November 11, 1861, prior to this time Nemaha county having been associated with Brown county for judicial purposes. Albert H. Horton, of Atchison, was, at this time, district judge, having succeeded Judge Albert L. Lee, who had received a commission as major in the Seventh Kansas. The district clerk was I. C. Hebbard, to whom Homer L. Dean, the clerk of Brown county, had turned over the books and papers belonging to Nemaha county. The grand jury who served at this term of court consisted of John Downs, Thomas Carlin, Isaac H. Steer, Elias B. Church, James Larew, Salem B. Dodge, Samuel Dennis, T. A. Campfield, H. A. Goodman, Hezekiah Grimes, John Hodgins, William Histed, John Kilmer, Augustus Wolfley, H. D. Channell and James M. Randel. William Histed was the foreman. The most important case upon the docket was that of the State of Kansas vs. Josiah Blancett, wherein the defendant stood

charged with the murder of Thompson Wilson. The verdict was "Not guilty." The indictment failed to state that the murder was committed in Nemaha county. In 1855 three county commissioners were appointed. From that time until the spring of 1860, the chairman of the township board was the supervisor of the county board. In 1860 three commissioners at large were chosen, a like number being elected each alternate year until 1878, when the system was changed, so that one was elected each year, to hold office three years. The population of the county at various times has been as follows: 1855, ninety-nine; no return was made at this census of the number of voters. In 1857, 512, voters, 140; 1860, 2,436; 1870, 7,296; 1880, 12,463; 1881, 13,476; 1882, 15,073.

As originally divided the county had, for municipal purposes, nine townships: Rock Creek, Nemaha, Clear Creek, Richmond, Capioma, Valley, Home, Granada and Red Vermillion. These have, at various times, been sub-divided, forming Washington, Gilman, Illinois, Harrison, Neuchatel, Reilly and Wetmore. In July, 1882, the commissioners further changed the local geography, by the creation of Mitchell township, from Home, Richmond and Valley; and of Adams township, from Valley and Capioma, the two dividing Valley equally between them and blotting it from the map.

The official roster of the county since its organization is as follows:

**Council**——1855, John W. Foreman; 1857, Benjamin Harding, Andrew J. Mead; 1859, Luther R. Palmer.

**State Senators**——1860, Samuel Lappin; 1862, Byron Sherry; 1864, Samuel Spear; 1866, George Graham; 1868, Albert G. Spear; 1870, Joseph Cracraft; 1872, E. N. Morrill; 1874, J. M. Miller; 1876, E. N. Morrill, (for four years); 1880, I. F. Collins; 1884, W. W. Smith; 1888, R. M. Emery; 1892, Hiram F. Robbins; 1896, A. L. Coleman; 1900, J. K. Coddington; 1904, George P. Hayden; 1908, Oscar Fagerberg; 1912, James M. Meek.

**Territorial Representatives** —— 1855, R. L. Kirk, John H. Stringfellow; 1856, Cyrus Dolman; 1857, E. N. Morrill; 1858, George Graham; 1859, Morton Cave; 1860, Charles C. Coffinbury.

**State Representatives**——1860, David C. Auld, D. E. Ballard; 1861, Harrison Foster, F. P. Baker; 1862, John S. Hidden; 1863, Richard Bradley, J. S. Hidden; 1864, J. D. Sammons, C. C. Coffinbury; 1865, James K. Gross, George Graham; 1866, T. B. Collins, Joseph Hanemum; 1867, Philip Rockefeller, John Hodgins; 1868, Samuel Lappin, Daniel Helpshrey; 1869, L. Hensel, William Morris; 1870, Richard Johnson, A. Simons; 1871, Ira F. Collins, H. C. DeForest; 1872, Cyrus L. Schofield, H. C. DeForrest; 1873, J. E. Taylor, C. S. Cummings; 1874, G. W. Brown, S. P. Conrad; 1875, D. R. Magill, S. P. Conrad; 1876, I. F. Collins, L. C. Preston (for two years); 1878, E. G. Stitt, M. L. Wilson; 1880, N. F. Benson, A. W. Cracraft; 1882, Wright

Hicks, R. C. Bassett; 1884, J. E. Corwin, C. S. Cummings; 1886, G. W. Conrad, A. L. Coleman; 1888, W. J. Bailey, D. M. Yonkman; 1890, R. D. McCliman, Ezra Carey; 1892, R. D. McCliman; 1894, G. W. Johnson; 1896, G. W. Johnson; 1898, George P. Hayden; 1900, George P. Hayden; 1902, George P. Hayden; 1904, S. R. Myers; 1906, S. R. Myers; 1908, James M. Meek; 1910, James M. Meek; 1912, R. W. Moorhead; 1914, R. W. Moorhead.

**Sheriffs**——1855, James E. Thompson, superseded by James E. Hill; 1857, John S. Rogers; 1859, John S. Rogers; 1861, John S. Rogers; 1863, William Boulton; 1865, William Boulton; 1867, Abram Kyger; 1869, Abram Kyger; 1871, David R. Magill; 1873, David R. Magill; 1875, Richard Johnson; 1877, James Martin; 1879, D. R. Vorhes; 1881, D. R. Vorhes; 1883, Nathan B. Lohmuller; 1885, Nathan B. Lohmuller; 1887, William Dennis; 1889, William Dennis; 1891, George A. Lyman; 1893, George A. Lyman; 1895, A. J. Murray; 1897, A. J. Murray; 1899, H. G. Campbell; 1902, H. G. Campbell; 1904, William Dennis; 1906, William Dennis; 1908, C. B. Andrews; 1910, C. B. Andrews; 1912, J. G. Battin; 1914, J. G. Battin.

**County Clerks**——1855, R. U. Torrey; 1857, R. U. Torrey; 1859, R. U. Torrey; 1860, Byron Sherry (to fill vacancy); 1861, William F. Wells; 1863, J. W. Fuller; 1865, J. W. Fuller; 1867, J. W. Fuller; 1869, J. W. Fuller; 1871, Joshua Mitchell; 1873, Joshua Mitchell; 1875, Walter J. Ingram; 1877, Joshua Mitchell; 1879, Joshua Mitchell; 1881, Joshua Mitchell; 1883, Richard S. Robbins; 1885, Richard S. Robbins; 1887, W. E. Young; 1889, W. E. Young; 1891, Charles W. Hunt; 1893, Charles W. Hunt; 1895, Frank M. Hartman; 1897, Frank M. Hartman; 1899, A. G. Sanborn, (to fill vacancy); 1899, A. G. Sanborn; 1902, B. F. Eaton; 1904, B. F. Eaton; 1906, E. S. Kandel; 1908, E. S. Kandel; 1910, J. L. Sourk; 1912, J. L. Sourk; 1914, W. L. Kauffman.

**Registrars of Deeds**——1855 to 1859, Samuel Lappin; 1859, Samuel Lappin; 1861, J. H. Peckham; 1863, William Smith; 1865, William F. Wells; 1867, Abijah Wells; 1869, Peter McQuaid; 1871, J. H. Ford; 1873, J. H. Ford; 1875, J. H. Ford; 1877, J. H. Ford; 1879, Roy A. Thompson; 1881, Roy A. Thompson; 1883, Roy A. Thompson; 1885, W. F. Drees; 1887, J. H. Walters; 1889, J. H. Walters; 1891, Albert C. Eigerman; 1893, Van B. Fisher; 1895, Van B. Fisher; 1897, William Callahan; 1899, William Callahan; 1902, R. T. Bruner; 1904, R. T. Bruner; 1906, John M. Taylor; 1908, John M. Taylor; 1910, F. B. Crandall; 1912, F. B. Crandall; 1914, George C. Britt.

**County Treasurers**——1855, Edwin Van Endert; 1857, R. U. Torrey (acting); 1859, Charles F. Warren; 1861, Charles G. Scraftford; 1863, J. H. Peckham; 1865, J. H. Peckham; 1867, J. C. Hebbard; 1869, J. C. Hebbard; 1871, O. C. Bruner; 1875, Edward Butt; 1877, Edward Butt; 1879, T. W. Johnson; 1881, T. W. Johnson; 1883, Robert E. Nelson; 1885, A. C. Moorhead; 1887, A. C. Moorhead; 1889, Edward

Butt; 1891, Edward Butt; 1893, Charles E. Isaacson; 1895, Charles E. Isaacson; 1897, R. D. McCliman; 1899, R. D. McCliman; 1902, W. R. Graham; 1904, W. R. Graham; 1906, W. G. Rucker; 1908, W. G. Rucker; 1910, R. T. Bruner; 1912, R. T. Bruner; 1914, H. P. Zahm.

**Probate Judges**——1855, Cyrus Dolman; 1857, Morton Cave; 1859, Havens Starr; 1860, Thomas S. Wright; 1862, James R. Gross; 1863, James P. Taylor (to fill vacancy); 1864, H. H. Lanham; 1866, H. H. Lanham; 1868, H. H. Lanham; 1870, H. H. Lanham; 1872, William Histed; 1874, H. H. Lanham; 1876, H. H. Lanham; 1878, George Graham; 1880, William Histed; 1882, J. F. Thompson; 1884, J. A. Amos; 1886, J. A. Amos; 1888, Elwin Campfield; 1888, Elwin Campfield (to fill vacancy); 1890, Elwin Campfield; 1892, J. E. Corwin; 1894, J. E. Corwin; 1896, R. W. Moorhead; 1898, R. W. Moorhead; 1900, W. W. Simon; 1902, W. W. Simon; 1904, W. W. Simon; 1906, John T. Campbell; 1908, John T. Campbell; 1910, John T. Campbell; 1912, J. E. Taylor; 1914, William H. Higgins.

**Superintendents of Public Instruction**——1857, J. C. Hebbard; 1859, J. W. Fuller; 1860, F. P. Baker; 1861, Daniel Foster (to fill vacancy); 1862, J. C. Hebbard (to fill vacancy); 1862, Thomas B. Shepard; 1864, L. C. Preston; 1865, Thomas D. Shepard (to fill vacancy); 1866, Thomas D. Shepard; 1868, J. S. Stamm; 1870, P. K. Shoemaker; 1872, Josiah D. Sammons; 1874, Abijah Wells; 1876, Abijah Wells; 1878, Abijah Wells; 1880, J. A. Amos; 1882, J. A. Amos; 1884, E. H. Chapman; 1886, E. H. Chapman; 1888, J. J. McCray; 1890, J. J. McCray; 1892, Milton Todd; 1894, C. A. Strong; 1896, Milton Todd; 1898, J. G. Schofield; 1900, J. G. Schofield; 1902, W. T. Anderson; 1904, W. T. Anderson; 1906, Milton Poland; 1908, Milton Poland; 1910, W. R. Anthony; 1912, W. R. Anthony; 1914, W. R. Anthony.

**Clerks of the District Court**——1859, R. U. Torrey; 1861, J. C. Hebbard; 1862, O. C. Bruner; 1864, William Histed; 1866, Abijah Wells; 1867, D. B. McKay (to fill vacancy); 1868, J. H. Williams; 1870, George Gould; 1872, George R. Benedict; 1874, George R. Benedict; 1876, George R. Benedict; 1878, George R. Benedict; 1880, George R. Benedict; 1882, James H. Gleason; 1884, James H. Gleason; 1886, James H. Gleason; 1888, James H. Gleason; 1890, H. B. Crary; 1892, H. B. Crary; 1894, D. M. Linn; 1896, D. M. Linn; 1898, J. D. Magill; 1900, Blanche Magill; 1902, Blanche Magill; 1904, Lulu Ervin; 1906, Lulu Ervin; 1908, Lulu Ervin; 1910, Lulu Ervin; 1912, J. L. Neighbor; 1914, Mabel Worley.

**County Commissioners**——1855, Jesse Adamson, David P. Magill, Peter Hamilton; 1857, George Graham, A. A. Wood, John Lowery, William R. Wells, Thomas S. Wright, Peter Hamilton; 1859, George Graham, G. H. Baker, Morton Cave, Charles C. Coffinbury, Thomas S. Wright, Peter Hamilton; 1860, (spring election), John Ellis, Charles C. Coffinbury, Garnett Randel; 1860 (regular election), John Ellis, David M. Locknane, Moses Shepard; 1861, John T. Good-

pasture, Nicholas Hocker and Samuel Bradshaw (M. H. Terrell successfully contested Hocker's seat, the only contested election in the country); 1863, Edward McCaffrey, Jacob Nicholson, Moses Shepard; 1865, L. P. Hasen, George D. Searles, Albert Bonjour; 1867, E. F. Bouton, John M. Ford, H. M. Metcalf; 1869, Archibald Moorhead, George D. Searles, Henry O. Stauffer; 1871, Archibald Moorhead, George D. Searles, Henry O. Stauffer; 1873, George H. Adams, C. W. Conrad, Patrick Reilly; 1875, George H. Adams, Patrick Reilly, Aaron H. Burnett; 1877, George H. Adams, Aaron H. Burnett, T. M. Durland; 1878, G. H. Adams; 1879, T. M. Durland; 1880, A. H. Burnett; 1881, George H. Adams; 1882, T. M. Durland; 1883, D. B. McKay; 1884, A. C. Moorhead; 1885, J. M. Randel, Richard Johnson; 1886, S. R. Myers, Charles B. Thummel; 1888, J. M. Randel; 1889, Charles B. Thummel; 1890, G. W. Myrick; 1891, James M. Meek, James Fisher (to fill vacancy); 1892, Conrad Droge; 1893, G. W. Myrick; 1894, J. T. Sanders; 1895, Conrad Droge; 1896, H. J. Hazell; 1897, J. T. Sanders; 1898, C. H. Stallbaumer; 1899, D. D. Wickins; 1900, W. G. Rucker; 1901, C. H. Stallbaumer; 1902, D. D. Wickins; 1904, W. G. Rucker, Michael Rogers; 1906, D. D. Wickins; 1908, Albert Swartz, T. M. Durland (unexpired term, August Kramer, Anton Wempe (unexpired term); 1910, W. E. Ruse; 1912, Fred Dabner, August Kramer; 1914, W. E. Ruse.

**County Surveyors**——1881, Mortimer Mathews; 1883, Mortimer Mathews; 1885, Mortimer Mathews; 1887, E. R. Hopkins; 1888, Mortimer Mathews, (to fill vacancy); 1889, Mortimer Mathews; 1891, E. H. Gilbert; 1893, Mortimer Mathews; 1895, Mortimer Mathews; 1897, Mortimer Mathews; 1899, Mortimer Mathews; 1902, Mortimer Mathews; 1904, Mortimer Mathews; 1906, Mortimer Mathews; 1908, Mortimer Mathews; 1910, Mortimer Mathews; 1912, Mortimer Mathews; 1914, E. J. Berg, (refused to serve; M. Mathews was appointed by governor).

**Coroners**——1881, Dr. S. S. Kaysbier; 1883, Dr. C. B. Sanford; 1885, Dr. C. B. Sanford; 1887, S. S. Kaysbier; 1889, Dr. S. S. Kaysbier; 1891, Dr. Luther A. Corwin; 1893, Dr. G. H. Anderson; 1895, Dr. Samuel Murdock, Jr.; 1897, Dr. Samuel Murdock, Jr.; 1899, Dr. B. F. Her-ring; 1902, Dr. C. M. Fisher; 1904, Dr. C. M. Fisher; 1906, Dr. U. G. A. Iles; 1908, Dr. U. G. Iles; 1910, Dr. C. R. Townsend; 1912, Dr. C. R. Townsend; 1914, Dr. Guy A. Graham.

**County Attorneys**——1882, R. M. Emery; 1884, R. M. Emery; 1886, J. W. Cunnick; 1888, J. W. Cunnick; 1890, J. E. Taylor; 1892, Frank Wells; 1894, Frank Wells; 1896, S. K. Woodworth; 1898, S. P. Nold; 1900, Ira K. Wells; 1902, S. P. Nold; 1904, C. H. Herold; 1906, R. M. Emery, Jr.; 1908, C. H. Herold; 1910, C. H. Herold; 1912, C. H. Herold; 1914, Horace M. Baldwin.

**County Assessors**——1910, John E. King; 1912, C. Gudenkauf. Office abolished by legislature.

## CHAPTER XXVI.

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### BANKS AND BANKING.

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FIRST BANK IN THE COUNTY—THE SABETHA STATE BANK—WETMORE STATE BANK—FIRST NATIONAL BANK IN THE COUNTY—BANKING INTERESTS DEVELOP—BANKS ORGANIZED—CHANGES AND CONSOLIDATIONS—FARMERS BANK OF MORRILL ORGANIZED—PRESENT BANKS—THE NATIONAL BANK OF SENECA—FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF SENECA—CITIZENS BANK OF SENECA—THE NATIONAL BANK OF SABETHA—THE CITIZENS STATE BANK, SABETHA—OTHER NEMAHA BANKS.

By Roy Hesseltine.

The first banks in Nemaha county were established in the early seventies. These were the Bank of Nemaha County in Seneca, a corporation, and a private company bank in Sabetha, called the Sabetha Exchange Bank, operated by Milo E. Mather. We know little of the early history of the Seneca bank, but the tide of immigration, exorbitant rates of interest, together with the financial aid of the Lemon et al. (St. Joseph, Mo.) interests in the partnership caused the profits of the Sabetha bank to become greater than its manager, Mather, could endure. His ventures did not yield the profits his bank was earning, and he soon found he had overreached in his visions. The result was nearest a bank failure ever known in the county, but in which all loss was finally averted. When he failed individually, his banking partners contested the claims. They were quite numerous and amounted to many thousands of dollars, and were largely the accounts of farmers, who pooled their claims and selected and carried to court the claims of Joseph Fox and Jonathan Hesseltine as test cases, which cases were won, and all claims were settled by the St. Joseph partners.

The Sabetha bank was succeeded by the Sabetha State Bank, with Edwin Knowles as its manager, and about the same time a second bank was started in Seneca, with Willis Brown as its head. Knowles and Brown were interested in both banks. Both banks were well managed and successful. About this time the brick bank building was erected on the corner of Main and Washington streets, in which the National Bank of Sabetha is still domiciled, and Knowles erected what was looked upon as a mansion, which still stands in its original form in Block 20, opposite the Baptist church in Sabetha.



Also about this time the Wetmore State Bank was established in Wetmore by Snodgrass, De Forest, Hough et al., which bank still exists under its original name.

Then came a German in the person of A. Obendorff, Jr., who, in a new departure organized the first national bank in the county, at Centralia, which still exists, and Obendorff is still one of its principal owners, although removed from Centralia many years past. Obendorff, like Mather, became a purchaser of lands, and was active in their development, but his training and thrift rolled up profits instead of loss, and the magnificently planted and improved farm lying a few miles north of Centralia today marks some of the energies of this sturdy German, Obendorff. The writer formed his acquaintance about 1884 while attending the first bankers' convention ever held in Kansas City, and in conversation with him, he remarked: "Right here in Kansas City is the best opportunity in the world to enter the banking business at this time." He then proceeded to picture the future of Kansas City.

The immense immigration and settlement of the vast open prairies of the county in the early eighties also brought fast developments in the banking interests of the county.

With Obendorff, of Centralia, the prime mover, the names of George W. Williams, Leopold Cohen, Samuel Lappin, Charles G. Scrafford, Edward Butt, Simon Conwell, L. B. Keith, John A. Gilchrist, John Root, Abijah Wells, Ed Taylor, John E. Smith, A. J. Felt, J. P. Taylor, West E. Wilkinson, George E. Black and many others were affiliated with the then and now First National Bank, and the then Seneca State Bank, now the National Bank of Seneca. Edwin Knowles removed from Sabetha to Seneca, and became actively identified with the First National Bank, where he remained until he became cashier of the Capitol National Bank of Topeka. He has died within the year. Charles E. Clarkson, of Galesburg, Ill., succeeded him in Sabetha, and Jackson Cotton, from Salem, Ohio, became president of the bank, which changes crystalized the demand for a second bank in Sabetha, which brought forward the names of John T. Brady, T. K. Masheter, A. C. Moorhead, L. A. Perley, John Lanning, Jonathan Hesseltine, H. C. Haines, John L. Mowder, George R. T. Roberts, E. B. McKim, John A. Fulton et al., in the organization of the Citizens Bank, which was located in a frame building where the Newman grocery store now stands, and of which Brady was president and Moorhead, cashier, and in 1883, Roy Hesseltine became its assistant cashier.

It was about this time that national banks had commenced attracting attention. First nationals had been established in Centralia and Seneca, over in Brown county, M. S. Smalley, Charles P. Waste, Eli Davis, J. M. Boomer, Charles Knabb et al. had organized a new first national in Hiawatha, as competitors to the private bank of Barnett, Morrill & Co. The two active competitor banks in Sabetha entered into a contest for the name, first national, in which the newly acquired



cashier from Galesburg proved himself the winner, and the then new Citizens Bank accepted the name, Citizens National Bank. George A. Guild became assistant cashier of the First National in 1883. It was also about this time that C. C. K. Scoville emerged from his large loan and law practice and entered the banking field with a third bank in Seneca, which is the present Citizens State Bank of Seneca, and the Wikoff Brothers established their bank at Oneida, while the Morrisons and others established the Citizens State Bank at Centralia.

In 1884, a wedding, in which members of the contending bank factions in Sabetha were parties, together with the failing health of A. C. Moorhead, brought about a consolidation of the First National and Citizens National Banks. Within a short space of time, John T. Brady and George A. Guild succeeded Jackson Cotton and Charles E. Clarkson as president and cashier.

Roy Hesseltine organized the Farmers Bank of Morrill, and became its cashier. A new era of prosperity then came, the Rock Island railway built its Horton-Fairbury line, the Fairview State Bank, with Fred E. Graham as its cashier, the State Bank of Bern, with Charles H. Herold, cashier, were established. Banks were organized in every town of importance in the county, and Sabetha's one bank was groaning under its load of carrying and caring for all the new business coming in. Fred E. Graham was recalled from Fairview and made assistant cashier. All of this brought about the organization, in 1886, of the Citizens State Bank, by Jackson Cotton and Roy Hesseltine. Mr. Cotton remained its president until his death, and Roy Hesseltine, its cashier and president until his recent removal to Oregon because of poor health. It was this strong combination and these men, who, by fair dealings, economy and strict attention to the business, made the remarkable record of placing this bank, a close corporation, and made a foremost bank of the county, a distinction seldom attained by a bank outside of the county seat towns, and which distinction this bank enjoyed some twenty years.

The present banks of the county, as well as their officers, are familiar to all, and are easily accessible through the numerous directories. The laws governing banks have undergone radical changes during this short space of time. The Kansas banking laws have emerged from nothing to the best and most effective in the United States. The national laws and the new Federal Reserve system have wrought changes almost beyond comprehension, but in keeping with American progress. The writer well remembers when published statement dates were fixed by law, and the process of "stuffing" for these semi-annual statements would put our public school methods of "stuffing" for examinations in the shade, and it was frequently the bank with officials who could borrow the largest amounts from their city correspondents, or otherwise, and place to their credit with their banks, who could make the best public showing, or, rather the one who could put up the best bluff and most successfully fool the confiding public.

The first examination of the writer's bank by a regular State examiner, consisted in looking over the daily statement a few minutes, the smoking of a cigar, a short discussion of the political situation, a survey as to the chances of re-election of the governor to whom he owed his appointment, and the presenting of his receipt for the legally prescribed fees for the examination.

The methods of bank bookkeeping have kept pace with other developments. The old cumbersome forms, which meant midnight oil and headaches in calculations and adding endless columns of figures, have been succeeded by modern filing devices, adding machines, the newest ledger posting machines, etc., etc., until the work has become so simplified and systemized that even the time-honored pass book has become obsolete and relegated to the junk heap, and the end is not yet.

If those of us who have grown gray and weary in the heat of the service could but know that we could draw aside the curtain and view the inventions and developments fifty years hence, we would be fully content to step aside and lay down the work.

#### THE NATIONAL BANK OF SENECA, KANS.

Is the legitimate successor of the Bank of Nemaha County, organized in 1881, and afterwards consolidated with the State Bank of Seneca, on March 14, 1884, which was in turn converted into this strong institution on December 9, 1897, and under able and conservative management and the influence of its fifty-six stockholders, has rapidly extended its business until it has become the largest bank in the city, leading in capital and surplus, deposits, loans and volume of business.

At its organization, R. M. Emery, of Seneca, was elected president, and has continuously served in that capacity until the present time. James H. Gleason, now deceased, was elected its first cashier, who was succeeded by Peter P. Stein, assistant cashier, in the year 1908, and he in turn by its present popular and efficient cashier, Melville R. Connet, in the year 1912, who, with the aid of the board of directors and his courteous, competent and accommodating assistants, has won popular favor and gained the confidence of its patrons and the public and placed it in the front ranks of the leading banking institutions of the State.

Its deposits are not only guaranteed by its large capital and surplus and its numerous wealthy and influential stockholders, but also by the Bankers Deposit Guaranty and Surety Company, of Topeka, Kans., with a capital and surplus of \$500,000.

This bank has stood the test of all financial depressions and money panics of the past, and now with its ample "preparedness," as shown by its official and sworn statements, is one of the best and safest depositories doing business anywhere.

The active officers of this substantial banking institution are: R. M. Emery, president; E. R. Murphy, vice-president; B. F. Hart, second

vice-president; M. R. Connet, cashier; Frank L. Geary, assistant cashier; Leo J. Scheier, assistant cashier and teller; John R. Emery, bookkeeper.

The board of directors are:

R. M. Emery, of the law firm of Emery & Emery.

E. R. Murphy, retired farmer and capitalist.

B. F. Hart, retired farmer and capitalist.

H. C. Settle, capitalist.

G. W. Johnson, capitalist.

H. W. Fuller, of the hardware firm of Fuller & Son.

W. G. Rucker, ex-county commissioner and treasurer.

M. R. Connet, cashier.

The last sworn official statement shows the capital of the bank to be \$50,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$45,000; deposits and circulation, \$365,000, making a total aggregate business of 460,000, all of which is safely invested in well-secured farmers' loans, United States bonds, mortgages, etc., and the balance necessary to transact their extensive business is deposited in their large Corliss burglar-proof safe. It is also elaborately equipped with safety deposit boxes for the private use of its patrons, pays four per cent. interest on time and savings accounts, and affords a security to the depositor excelled by no bank in the county.

#### FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF SENECA.

On December 19, 1874, a charter for the State Bank of Kansas was granted to Samuel Lappin, Charles Scrafford, Edwin Knowles, Willis Brown and Samuel Conwell. Samuel Lappin was elected president, Edwin Knowles, vice-president, and Willis Brown, cashier.

Nearly all these men have passed on, but forty years later the workers in the First National Bank of Seneca have paused for a time to review the history of the institution whose earliest history is inseparably associated with that of Seneca and Nemaha county. The men to whom this first charter was granted are the same men whose pioneer industry and indefatigable courage helped to carve from out a bleak prairie the splendid commonwealth to which this generation has fallen heir. With these things in mind, the directorate and officers of the First National may well view with pride the growth of a bank that has never failed to keep step with the community whose interests it has done so much to serve. To some of the younger people the names of these early pioneers may be strange, but the older folks will remember them. To more than one elderly resident these incidents in the history of the First National that follow will awaken intimate recollections of early days.

In 1856, Samuel Lappin came to Seneca, and in 1858, C. G. Scrafford. These two pioneers, together with R. U. Torry, comprised the Seneca Townsite Company, and built the first building, which was an

old log house and located on the site where now stands the Citizens State Bank of Seneca. The Townsite Company used part of this building as their office, and C. G. Scrafford the other part of the building for a store. Later on, C. G. Scrafford moved to a frame building, which was erected on the site where the brick building now stands, that is occupied by Honeywell & Stein. Samuel Lappin then entered the mercantile business with C. G. Scrafford, and in 1863, they built and occupied the brick building which is at present occupied by Mason & Woltkamp. In 1870, Lappin, & Scrafford sold out to Dickinson & Cowdrey and erected the building which is now occupied by John L. Clark. Being heavily interested in lands in this county, they used this building as their office and were heavy dealers in real estate. This naturally drifted them into the line of banking, and they were known as the Lappin & Scrafford Bank. They were very successful and influential business men, and Samuel Lappin was later on elected Treasurer of the State of Kansas.



FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING, SENECA, KANS.

Later, on December 19, 1874, the charter for the State Bank of Kansas, with officers as mentioned in the first paragraph of this article, was secured. In January, 1876, Edwin Knowles was elected president, and D. B. McKay, vice-president. The following year, in January, 1877, Edward Butt was elected vice-president in the place of D. B. McKay. At the same meeting, G. W. Williams was elected a director, which position he has held continuously to the present day. It will be interesting to note that the minutes of this meeting show the discount rate was reduced from twenty to eighteen per cent.

In 1881, D. J. Firstenberger was elected vice-president and director. In January, 1883, George E. Black was made assistant cashier. In

March, 1883, the proposition of nationalizing the bank was taken up, and May 16 of the same year, the charter was granted to the First National Bank of Seneca, with the following as officers and directors: Willis Brown, president; G. W. Williams, vice-president; George Black, cashier. The directors were: Ed Butt, D. J. Firstenberger, R. E. Nelson, J. H. H. Ford and D. B. McKay.

In January, 1884, the bank purchased the site where now stands the present building. February 2, 1884, George Black resigned as cashier, and Julius Rosenblatt succeeded him. In May of the same year, Leopold Cohen purchased a block of stock in the bank, and J. H. Cohen, his son, accepted the position as bookkeeper, which marked the beginning of his very active and successful career in this institution. Leopold Cohen was elected as director the following year. On July 14, 1885, West E. Wilkinson was chosen a director to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Julius Rosenblatt, which position he held until January, 1902.

In January, 1887, G. W. Williams was elected president, Leopold Cohen, vice-president, and W. H. Smith was elected as a director, which office Messrs. Williams and Smith are holding at the present time. In January, 1888, J. H. Cohen was chosen assistant cashier. On May 25, 1888, the bank sold its old banking rooms to A. H. Burnett, and let a contract for its present beautiful home, into which the bank moved in the spring of 1889.

In 1891, S. H. Fitzwater was elected a director and Stephen Burr a director in 1892. R. E. Nelson was elected vice-president in the place of Leopold Cohen, who moved with his family to St. Joseph in 1893, and J. H. Cohen was elected a director at the same time. In 1897, C. C. Pinckney was elected a director to succeed Stephen Burr, who moved with his family to California. There were no other official changes until January, 1902, when J. H. Cohen was elected cashier to succeed West E. Wilkinson. R. A. Cohen and T. L. Cowdrey were then elected as directors. In 1904, L. B. Keith was elected a director and vice-president. Michael Rogers was also elected a director at the same time. In December, 1904, the bank installed its burglar system at considerable expense as additional protection for its funds.

In November, 1905, the directors of the First National Bank purchased the stock of the Seneca State Savings Bank from its founder, J. E. Stillwell, and moved the same into its present quarters in the First National Bank building, and the two banks are closely identified. In January, 1907, Edwin S. Cohen was elected assistant cashier, which position he held until in December, 1913, during two years of this time holding a position as director.

On account of failing health, J. H. Cohen resigned his position as cashier and sold his interest on October 10, 1912, in the First National Bank and the Seneca State Savings Bank to J. E. Stillwell, L. D. Allen,

J. J. Buser and P. P. Stein, who were also elected directors. L. D. Allen was made vice-president and P. P. Stein, cashier.

The First National Bank, Seneca, Kans., at the close of business, March 7, 1916:

#### Resources.

Loans and Discounts.....	\$213,074.16
Overdrafts .....	285.33
Federal Reserve Bank Stock.....	2,100.00
United States Bonds.....	50,000.00
Real Estate .....	13,150.00
Bonds, Securities, etc.....	175.00
Cash and Exchange.....	133,744.30
	<hr/>
	\$412,528.79

#### Liabilities.

Capital Stock .....	\$ 50,000.00
Surplus and Profits.....	28,499.10
Circulation .....	49,695.00
Deposits .....	284,334.69
	<hr/>
	\$412,528.79

#### Officers and Directors.

G. W. Williams.....	President
L. D. Allen.....	Vice-President
Peter P. Stein.....	Cashier
M. B. Williams.....	Assistant Cashier
W. H. Smith, J. J. Buser, J. E. Stillwell, L. B. Keith.	

The Seneca State Savings Bank, Seneca, Kans., at the close of business, March 7, 1916.

#### Resources.

Loans and Discounts.....	\$162,002.47
Overdrafts .....	1,676.04
Bonds .....	1,000.00
Expenses and Interest Paid.....	2,296.62
Cash and Sight Exchange.....	101,272.56
	<hr/>
	\$268,247.69

#### Liabilities.

Capital Stock .....	\$ 25,000.00
Surplus and Profits.....	11,852.80
Deposits .....	231,394.89
	<hr/>
	\$268,247.69

## Officers and Directors.

Mat. Schneider .....	President
J. E. Stillwell.....	Vice-President
Peter P. Stein.....	Second Vice-President
L. D. Allen.....	Cashier
J. P. Koelzer, G. W. Williams, J. J. Buser.	

## CITIZENS STATE BANK, SENECA, KANS.

The Citizens State Bank of Seneca, Kans. was first organized in 1888, and conducted as a private banking institution by C. C. K. Scoville in the building now occupied by its successor. The name of the first concern was the Scoville Exchange Bank, organized by Mr. Scoville, with a capital of \$30,000. The success of this financial concern was marked and steady from its inception, and six years after its beginning it was re-organized as a State bank on September 1, 1894, with the following officers: C. C. K. Scoville, president; A. L. L. Scoville, vice-president; F. G. Bergen, cashier. The original capitalization was increased to \$40,000. The first official body was succeeded within a year by the following officers: C. C. K. Scoville, president; J. J. Knepp, vice-president; F. G. Bergen, cashier; Charles E. Knepp, assistant cashier. The present officers of the Citizens State Bank are: C. C. K. Scoville, president; August Kramer, vice-president; F. J. Holthaus, cashier; A. J. Wempe, assistant cashier. Directors: The foregoing officers and W. F. Thompson, Henry Eichenlaub, Anton Wempe and Herman Engelken.

The present capital of the bank is \$40,000. The deposits and earnings have been accumulated exceeding \$20,000. The deposits will exceed \$250,000, while the bank has loans of \$250,000. This bank has paid in dividends, since its organization in 1888, over \$158,000, an amount exceeding fifteen per cent of the capitalization annually, in addition to the accumulated surplus of \$20,000. The stockholders of this thriving financial concern have received the value of their stock over three and one-half times in dividends. This bank at present pays an average dividend of seventeen and one-half per cent., including surplus.

Four per cent. is paid on savings deposits and upon time certificates of deposit. The bank has weathered all monetary panics successfully and the losses sustained from bad loans during the past twenty-eight years, etc., will not exceed \$500, all of which is evidence of the careful and able management of its affairs, based upon sound expert financial knowledge.

## THE NATIONAL BANK OF SABETHA.

The National Bank of Sabetha has an asset that is never listed in its statements, and yet it is perhaps the most important thing around the place, the first thing that impresses you when you do business there.

It is the asset of politeness, good nature and the integrity of the spoken word. You feel it every time you go into the bank. The bank's capital and surplus of \$100,000 is a lot of money, and it makes a foundation that goes to bed rock, yet it is the good natured squareness of the men you meet there that you remember longest.

The bank's last statement, showing time deposits amounting to about \$125,000, indicates to the ordinary, everyday mind the confidence of the community in those who direct the bank's affairs. The total deposits are \$350,000, and the total assets over a half million dollars, a real lump of money for a county bank.

Incidentally, some pretty good men are directors and officers of the National Bank of Sabetha. There's C. L. Sherwood, who has been vice-president of the bank since 1889; John Lanning, a director since 1891, president in 1894, and vice-president since 1902; Adolph Weiss, a director since 1883; H. C. Haines, a director since 1885; A. J. Collins, bookkeeper, assistant cashier, cashier and president in turn, beginning from 1897; G. R. Sewell, bookkeeper, assistant cashier and cashier, beginning from 1904; H. F. Breitweiser, bookkeeper in 1909, now assistant cashier; Roy L. Mishler, bookkeeper since 1911, and Ernest Lamparter, starting as bookkeeper this year, 1916. Note how the active workers in the bank have graduated by slow degrees. That means efficiency, knowledge of the business, sound service, the supreme thing to be desired in banking. Another director in the bank is George A. Guild, who grew up with the bank and went to Topeka for larger responsibilities; also W. R. Guild, now president of the First National Bank of Hiawatha.

Here is the way the National Bank of Sabetha has evolved into the present institution: First, it was the Sabetha State Bank, organized on March 2, 1877; then the First National Bank of Sabetha, organized on July 2, 1883; then the State Bank of Kansas, organized on February 27, 1885, and now the National Bank of Sabetha, organized on August 28, 1891.

The National Bank of Sabetha has a fine past as encouragement for future achievements.

### THE CITIZENS STATE BANK, SABETHA, KANS.

The Citizens State Bank of Sabetha, Kans., is one of the strongest financial institutions in Nemaha county and northeastern Kansas, and has been in existence since its organization in 1885 by Messrs. Jackson, Cotton, Robert Bressen and Roy Hesseltine, who were the first officers. The initial capital of this bank was \$25,000. Mr. Cotton continued with the bank until his death in 1898. Mr. Hesseltine was connected with the management of the bank until 1913, when he disposed of his interest to F. C. Woodbury, who is the president and active manager of the concern. The present capital of the Citizens State Bank is \$50,000; surplus, \$25,000; undivided profits, \$15,000; deposits on February 24, 1916, ag-



gregated the large total of \$390,000, and the bank has an average annual deposit of \$325,000. This banking concern has the distinction of having the largest total of deposits of any bank in Nemaha county.

The bank building was completely remodeled and modernized in 1909, and new fixtures were installed, with new vaults and safety deposit features added. An insurance department for the convenience of the many patrons is conducted by Mr. Bressemer. The farm loan department is in charge of Mr. Woodbury, who has direct connection with large Eastern capitalists, and the source of capital for this purpose available is practically unlimited, at the lowest possible rates and most liberal terms. The bank has made more farm loans during the past two years than ever before in its history. The bank equipment is thoroughly modern in every respect and the facilities are such that the officers and employees are enabled to wait upon patrons and handle the extensive business of the bank quickly and expeditiously and render customers prompt, efficient and satisfactory service at all times.

The customers meet with courteous and liberal treatment and are made to feel perfectly at home when transacting business in this bank. The present officers are as follows: F. C. Woodbury, president; Robert Bressemer, vice-president; J. C. Litchy, cashier; E. E. Morris, assistant cashier; F. C. Woodbury, Robert Bressemer, J. C. Litchy, E. E. Morris and R. Bottiger, directors.

The commendatory feature of the Citizens State Bank is the fact that "The Citizens State Bank is operating under the depositors' guarantee law of the State of Kansas, whereby all deposits in the bank are absolutely guaranteed to the depositors."

The bank is a depository for the State of Kansas, Nemaha county, and the city of Sabetha, and a special savings department is provided for.

#### OTHER NEMAHA BANKS.

Baileyville Sate Bank; established 1894; Willis J. Bailey, president; J. M. Everts, cashier; Robert M. Bronaugh, vice-president; capital and surplus, \$20,000.

State Bank of Bern; established 1889; George A. Guild, president; H. L. Guild, cashier; J. Hilt, vice-president; capital and surplus, \$35,000.

State Bank of Oneida; established 1884; D. H. Funk, president; F. E. Wikoff, cashier; H. L. Wikoff, vice-president; capital and surplus, \$21,000.

Citizens State Bank; established 1887; Centralia; A. W. Slater, president; J. A. Dock, cashier; C. C. Wadleigh, vice-president; capital and surplus, \$26,000.

First National Bank, Centralia; established 1882; F. P. Bowen, president; J. B. Lohmuller, cashier; A. Obendorf, vice-president; capital and surplus, \$50,000.

First National Bank, Goff; established 1904; George Calhoun, president; A. H. Fitzwater, cashier; James H. Smith, vice-president; capital and surplus, \$34,000.

Home State Bank, Goff; established 1909; William Mast, president; C. S. Goodrich, cashier; Herman Mast, vice-president; capital and surplus, \$12,000.

State Bank of Kelly; established 1902; R. M. Emery, president; George A. Magill, cashier; B. H. Rottinghaus, vice-president; capital and surplus, \$12,000.

State Bank of Bancroft; established 1902; W. H. Capsey, president; H. T. Whitaker, cashier; William Karns, vice-president; capital and surplus, \$18,000.

Farmers State Bank, Corning; established 1888; W. Jacobia, president; J. E. Woodworth, cashier; M. E. Jacobia, vice-president; capital and surplus, \$28,500.

First National Bank, Wetmore; established, 1907; T. E. Henderson, president; F. P. Achten, cashier; E. B. Ward, vice-president; capital and surplus, \$31,000.

Wetmore State Bank; established 1882; H. C. De Forest, president; Samuel Thornburrow, cashier; H. C. Lynn, vice-president; capital and surplus, \$30,000.

## CHAPTER XXVII.

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### THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

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PRIOR TO 1860—EARLY DAY DOCTORS—DR. ANDERSON, DR. HIDDEN—WELL KNOWN PHYSICIANS—FIRST MEDICAL SOCIETY ORGANIZED—NOW A PART OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION—PRESENT ORGANIZATION—REQUIREMENTS TO PRACTICE—HOSPITAL—PROMINENT PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

By Dr. S. Murdock, Jr.

The medical history of Nemaha county, Kansas, prior to the year 1860, consists of the tales and recollections of a few pioneer settlers. The stories recited by them are interesting and incidental only to the individual character of the men who professed to know something of medicine, and they would have no bearing, or even be considered as contributory toward the upbuilding of the present medical profession in the county. The names of Dr. Anderson, of Granada, and Dr. Hidden, of Centralia, figure in the early history of the treatment of the sick. Dr. Irwin, who lived in Brown county, Kansas, was frequently called into the county and took care of many of the early settlers. His mannerisms and individualities are still remembered. His trips were often made many miles on foot, and many were the hardships which he endured. He is recognized as having had exceptional ability from a medical standpoint. Later he located in Sabetha, Kans., where he built his home and lived during the remainder of his life. The names of Dr. Wachter, of Baileyville; Dr. Noah Hayes, of Seneca; Dr. Caysbier, Dr. J. F. Lesh, Dr. A. J. Best, Dr. Townsend, Dr. Joseph Hague, Dr. Graham and Dr. Murdock, Sr., Dr. Magill, Centralia; Dr. Corwin, of Goff; the young Dr. Irwin, Dr. Redding, Dr. Herring, Dr. Gafford, Dr. Welsh and Dr. Wagner are all well known practitioners in various parts of the county.

The first medical society in the county was organized in Seneca, with Dr. S. Murdock, Sr., president, and Dr. Wachter, secretary. The society has been maintained for the last twenty-five years and is still in full working order. It is now a part of the State Medical Society, also the American Medical Association. The organized medical society in the United States has recognized the county society as one of the requirements for admission into this great association. The present organization of the Nemaha County Medical Society consists of Dr. L. A. Cor-

win, Goff, president; Dr. W. A. Haynes, Sabetha, vice-president; Dr. S. Murdock, Jr., Sabetha, secretary, and the following members of the profession are in good standing: Dr. W. G. Bouse, Centralia; Dr. J. H. Brown, Centralia; Dr. F. F. Carter, Seneca; Dr. D. H. Fitzgerald, Kelly; Dr. G. S. Graham, Wetmore; Dr. J. W. Graham, Wetmore; Dr. W. A. Haynes, Sabetha; Dr. S. B. Houston, Baileyville; Dr. W. H. Heuchede, Corning; Dr. Grant Meyer, Bern; Dr. S. Murdock, Jr., Sabetha; Dr. J. C. Maxson, Corning; Dr. J. R. Purdum, Wetmore; Dr. A. S. Ross, Sabetha; Dr. H. G. Snyder, Seneca; Dr. C. R. Townsend, Centralia, and Dr. A. J. Smith.

Christian Science in this county has had a number of adherents; other "isms," such as the magnetic healer, the chiropractor and the patent medicine man have all had their day here, the same as in any other county.

Since the medical act was passed in Kansas, the requirements for one to enter the practice of medicine have been raised. Those who desire to practice must first pass through a recognized medical school, must then pass the examinations before the State Board of Registration before they can register in any county as a practicing physician. However, those who practice without the administration of drugs, as the osteopath and the chiropractor, simply register their diplomas from some school of their sect, and they are granted at once the privilege of taking care of the sick. There are no specifications or laws as to the qualifications necessary to be a reader or a practitioner of Christian Science.

The only general hospital in the county is located in Sabetha and is known as the Sabetha Hospital. This is run by an association for the benefit of the profession, not only in this county, but in the surrounding counties. The property consists of one main hospital building, which will accommodate forty patients; also a nurses' home with seventeen rooms.

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The medical profession in Nemaha county has representatives who are known nationally, many of them of interstate reputation, and most of them are known throughout the State of Kansas by others than their own brotherhood. Dr. Samuel Murdock, Jr., is president of the State hospital board and his private hospital is known nationally. He is one of twenty-two surgeons in Kansas to have been elected a member of the College of American Surgeons in Boston. Dr. Hugh Dillingham, a Nemaha county youth, now of Halstead, Kans., is secretary of the State Hospital Board. Dr. Hugh Wilkinson is a surgeon of Kansas City with an interstate reputation. His father was the late West E. Wilkinson, pioneer newspaper man of Seneca. Dr. J. R. Mathews, a Nemaha county man, specializing in eye troubles, has recently gone to Manhattan, where he is associated in lectures and practice with the State Agricultural College. Mrs. Dr. Emily Slosson, the one prominent woman doctor of the

county, has been practicing medicine since before her marriage to Samuel Slosson in 1875. Against the wishes of her father, Dr. Brooks, who was country doctor for many years around Salem, Neb., she went from school in Philadelphia to take a thorough course in medicine. Such a step for a young girl was considered remarkable in the early seventies.

Mrs. Slosson was graduated from the Nebraska State Normal College with the second graduating class in 1872. The first graduating class of this college had two graduates, Miss Anna Moorhead, of Sabetha, and



SABETHA HOSPITAL, SABETHA, KANS.

George Howard, of Salem. Anna Moorhead is now Mrs. Joy, of Oregon. Joseph Howard became a professor in Leland Stanford University, in California. A few years ago there was a religious tempest in the college in which the views of several of the professors were found not to be those of the Leland Stanford higher authorities, and the professors resigned. Among them was Prof. Joseph Howard, who since has been associated with the University of Nebraska. Mrs. Dr. Slosson recalls that she and Anna Moorhead Joy were roommates in these early college

days. Their modest expenditures for a year were less than the present day college girl's in a week. Their room, for instance, cost them \$4 for the term. They boarded themselves. They had a regular cookstove and learned their domestic science by practical experience, and memories of how mother did it at home. They were given all the fresh milk they wanted, and for the going after it, and all the potatoes they could use for the digging of them. They had free access to the immense amount of brush lying around Peru, and all the driftwood they could rescue from the river, flowing past the town. Some farmer wagon, with a lad as driver, hauled the wood for them for fifty cents, and they chopped it themselves. Their other expenditures amounted to never over \$1.50 a week altogether, and often not over a dollar. Ye Gods, and think what putting a girl through college means today! The year's expense of educating Anna Moorhead and Emma Brooke was less than an outfit costs for the girl of today. Anna Moorhead, a year after her graduation, married; Emma Slosson, three years afterward.

Of the early day doctors in Nemaha county, mention has been generally made in the previous pages. They are found connected with the building up and prospering of the county, in country and town. They are connected with the story of the War of the Rebellion. Dr. Hayes, Dr. Kaysbier, Dr. McKay, Dr. Troughton, Dr. J. L. Thompson, Dr. J. W. Graham, Dr. Milan and Dr. Best are among the names known and beloved by pioneer settlers.

Dr. J. S. Hidden was the earliest regular practitioner in the county. He came to Kansas and Nemaha county in 1858, at which time he was a member of the New Hampshire legislature. He was a member of the famous Home Association of Old Centralia, and became rich in the county.

About thirty-five years ago, Dr. S. Murdock, Sr., came from Missouri to Oneida, which was at that time in the height of its boom. He became the country doctor for the surrounding people, and is still the most beloved of doctors. Dr. Heigh's name has been connected with the Wetmore and Granada and the southeastern corner of the county for many years, while Dr. McKay is largely responsible for the early day health and welfare of the extreme southern end, around America City.

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

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### SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION.

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THE PIONEERS' INTEREST IN SCHOOLS—FIRST COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT—OTHER SUPERINTENDENTS—ESTABLISHING DISTRICTS—RECORDS DESTROYED BY FIRE—THE DISTRICT SCHOOL—NUMBER OF DISTRICTS—CANDIDATES FOR CERTIFICATES IN 1877, 1885, 1900 AND 1915—OFFICERS AND TEACHERS IN 1886—SCHOOL OFFICERS, 1915-1918—JOINT DISTRICTS—COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL PLAN REJECTED—CONSOLIDATION—SCHOOL CENTRALIZATION—NOTABLE TEACHERS—THE ALBANY SCHOOL—A BELOVED TEACHER.

By County Superintendent W. R. Anthony.

The huts and dugouts of the early settlers of Nemaha county were hardly completed before the attention of everyone was turned to the necessity of making provision for the education of the children of the settlement and vicinity.

The lack of building material did not long check the ardor of the sturdy pioneers, and soon a number of sod school houses were erected and equipped. Though crude at first, these primitive seats of learning became actual and interesting community centers; for here not only did the boys and girls of the surrounding country gather through the winter months for school, but here the settlers met to discuss important questions and problems and to hold religious and patriotic services. Here, too, the young people met in spelling schools, debating societies and other wholesome amusements, and many fond ties of love and friendship and pleasant memories brighten faces and lighten hearts at thoughts of those "days gone by."

These primitive sod huts and rude cabins soon gave way to better buildings, the little white school houses of almost sacred memory, and such is the neighborhood pride in these little rural centers of learning, as well as attachment for them through past associations, that it will require much argument and clear evidence before the people will consent to the passing of the rural schools for the consolidated schools, which are now being considered in many parts of the country where they are being tried out as far better and more efficient than the small rural school.

Before Kansas had reached Statehood, Joseph C. Hebbard was appointed first county superintendent of schools of Nemaha county, and

schools were opened in the different settlements. Following Superintendent Hebbard, the office was filled by J. W. Fuller, F. P. Baker, Daniel Foster and J. C. Hebbard again.

In November, 1862, Thomas D. Shepherd was elected for a term of two years, the first superintendent elected under the new State government. The following is the list of the superintendents of Nemaha county from the first to the present time, 1916: Joseph C. Hebbard, March, 1859, to January, 1860; J. W. Fuller, January, 1860, to July, 1860; F. P. Baker, July, 1860, to December, 1861; Daniel Foster, December, 1861, to April, 1862; Joseph C. Hebbard April, 1862, to January, 1863; Thomas D. Shepherd, elected in November, 1862, and served from January, 1863, to January, 1865, one term. L. C. Preston served from January, 1865, to August, 1865, when he resigned, and Abijah Wells was appointed to fill the vacancy and served till December, 1865. Mr. Wells was followed by Thomas D. Shepherd, who died in December, 1867. J. H. Ballou was appointed to fill out Superintendent Shepherd's term and served from December, 1867, to January, 1869. J. D. Stamm was the eleventh county superintendent, serving to December, 1870. P. K. Shoemaker was elected as Mr. Stamm's successor and served one term, January, 1871, to January, 1873. Abijah Wells was the fourteenth county superintendent and served three successive terms, 1875 to 1881. Mr. Wells has the honor of having filled the office longer than any county superintendent to the date of this writing, 1916. His term of service was six years and five months. Many official records and data pertaining to the office are found in his familiar handwriting. Mr. Wells was followed by J. A. Amos, E. H. Chapman and J. J. McCray, each of whom served two terms. Milton Todd served one term, from 1893 to 1895, and was followed by C. A. Strong for one term. Mr. Todd was returned to the office in 1897 for another term, and was followed by J. G. Schofield, who served from January, 1899, to May, 1903, making his term of office four years and four months. Mr. Schofield was followed by W. T. Anderson and Milton Poland, two terms each. In May, 1911, W. R. Anthony entered the office as the twenty-fourth county superintendent and shares with Mr. Wells the honor of having been elected for three consecutive terms. His present term of office expires in May, 1917.

When the county was organized and the task of laying out the districts was begun, district No. 1 was located to include the territory of the present city of Centralia and vicinity. This settlement was one amongst the first in the county, just north of Centralia of today. No. 2 took the Taylor Rapids settlement, a once promising little village on the banks of the Nemaha in the northern part of the county. Its dreams of future greatness failed to materialize, and today only a modest little school house stands as a landmark. District No. 3 was located just south of Baileyville, in the Graham neighborhood; No. 4 included the Ford settlement, east of Seneca, and No. 5 was in the Roots settlement, about half way between Seneca and Corning.



It is interesting to follow the list and note in the next ten districts the following settlements in various parts of the county: Carroll, near Axtell; White Hall, just east of Centralia; Beyreis, north of Seneca on the Nebraska line; Union Dale, in the Funk neighborhood, southwest of Oneida; District No. 10, some of the old settlers of which were the Buckles, Greens, Maelzers, Smiths, Kilkennys, Letelliers, just southwest of Centralia; District No. 11, including the city of Seneca; Swerdfeger and Shumaker, north of Wetmore; Wolfley school, east of Goff, and Liberty, in the Johnson and Burger neighborhood, north of Seneca. From



THE BEAUTIFUL HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, SENECA, KANS.

this record we see that schools were established in all parts of the county along with homes.

The records of the county superintendent's office were destroyed by fire on March 4, 1876, and much interesting early data concerning these first settlements and schools is not available for embodying in this short review of the educational history of Nemaha county; but up to the time of the fire there had been organized about eighty districts in the county in which schools were kept from three to five or more months.

With our present high ideals of schools and school work one may be inclined to minimize the efforts of these early frontier short-term schools, but when one estimates carefully and thoughtfully the results that have followed them, he must admire and praise them. The enrollment did not consist of just a handful of small boys and girls, as is the case in many places today, but the room was full, including not only little folks, but big boys and girls, grown, even young men and women. The teacher was a sturdy disciplinarian who knew how to wield the rod as well as hear classes and call school; and while the instruction was not so classic and up-to-date in methods, hosts of young people learned to read and write and spell and cipher, learned to think and decide, to form conclusions as to right and wrong, to be honest and frugal and upright, and later build up homes and establish a citizenship that has made Nemaha county an honor to the State of Kansas.

During the next ten years about twenty-five districts more were added to the list, bringing the number up to 105. The first district meeting in the Anderson district, No. 103, was held at the home of Thomas S. Anderson, just south of Oneida, on October 16, 1886, to locate the site for the school house, elect officers, etc. The territory to form this district was taken from the surrounding districts, Nos. 4, 9, 54, 79, 83 and 87. The original notice of this first meeting is on file in the office. At this meeting P. A. Wright was elected clerk, Thomas S. Anderson, treasurer, and Henry F. Harter, director.

During the next decade, 1886 to 1896, the number of school districts increased to 117. No. 117 was organized on July 16, 1894, with J. P. Good as clerk, Robert Schneider as treasurer, and Charles Krogman as director. The territory of this district was originally in Districts 3, 69, 89 and 76.

Just three districts have been organized since 1896, District 118, in 1898, by Superintendent Todd; District 119, in 1903, by Superintendent W. T. Anderson, and District 120, in 1910, by Superintendent Milton Poland.

The total number of school districts in the county, including the joint districts, is now 130. For a number of years the tendency has been to make more districts, thus reducing the territory of existing districts, and the limit has about been reached. There are yet a few points where the organization of a new district would accommodate a few families in a small school, but sentiment is gradually changing and people are beginning to feel that it would be better if there were fewer districts and larger schools. The pendulum is beginning to vibrate the other way and consolidated schools are being thought about, talked about and advocated in different communities. Meetings have been appointed in some localities and in a few districts a vote has been taken to ascertain the sentiment of the people on the proposition.

As this brief educational review of the county must, of necessity, contain some statistics to make it of real value for future reference, the

following data is compiled from the records of the county superintendent's office:

Names of Candidates for Teachers' Certificates in 1877—G. W. Mayhew, R. E. Mayhew, Mary E. Alvord, Hattie A. Smith, Addie Points, Finnie Points, Mattie A. Burger, Dora Murphy, Florence Alvord, Joseph Haigh, Susie Blazier, Alice Allen, Dora Neighbor, D. B. Mercer, Cryssie Myers, John Crarey, Nora Cattin, Ollie Shannon, Mary J. Ewing, J. T. Gillam, D. S. Gilmore, Hattie West, Addie Hitchcock, D. L. Miller.



HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, SABETHA, KANS.

Lizzie J. Hart, Frances Cattin, Maud Biddison, J. B. Lohmuller, J. J. McNeil, Nannie Morehead, Morris King, V. H. Biddison, L. Herrington, Mary Todd, D. L. Ewing, Jennie McCoy, Mort Mathews, A. Sams, Emma J. Gillaspie, Jennie Ewing, Sarah Carroll, D. L. Linn, Alma Hammel, Isabel Wilson, J. J. Mitchell, Mrs. W. W. Skadden, M. H. Minchan, May Techlofen, W. D. Monk, G. D. Lewis, Sophia Wohlford, H. D. Crarey, D. R. Bradt, T. Jennings, Julia Heusley, Ella Watkins, S. S. Lindeman, Flora M. Stinson, Jennie S. Lilley, Laura Manville, Mattie Trees, Maggie Mercer, Sarah Chapman, Annie Mercer, T. J. Wolfley, A. M. Allen, J.

A. Huron, Mary Monahan, D. F. Hoover, E. H. Chapman, C. H. Stewart, T. F. Bracken, Lenore Bracken, Pat Dignan, Mary V. Andrews, Clara Gallup, Minnie King and C. H. Herold.

At the teachers' institute held at Seneca in July, 1885, E. H. Chapman, county superintendent, the following was the enrollment: Clinton Barrowdale, Elmer V. Allen, Ed. E. Harter, Henry T. Shoemaker, Hugh B. Carter, Beverly H. Hobbs, John Barber, Charles Fundis, Vernon Simon, Edw. W. Clark, Fanny H. Bennett, Mary Myers, Eva Coleman, J. H. Parker, Allie Allen, Winnie Carr, Anna Ridenour, Mattie Woodbourn, Mary Anderson, Anna Dougan, Angie Stickney, Susey Hulse, Mary Seeley, Minnie Burger, Lorrain Taylor, Minnie Kaysbier, Jennie McBratney, Cora Moren, Nettie Kuhn, Rebecca McCray, Mattie E. Clark, Genie M. Kendall, Sophia Wohlford, Lillie E. Clark, Frank A. Hastings, Anna Skinner, Alice Nightengale, Theresa Wohlford, Lillie Fabrick, Etta Borem, Dora Taylor, Della Farmer, Lydia Oren, Mrs. O. H. Stilson, Anna Green, Belle McColgin, Emma Hodgins, Eden Borrowdale, Mary Hale, Laura Critchfield, Jessie Boardman, Nettie Carmichael, Stowey Bruce, Lillie Rosenberger, Anna Kerr, Norma Kerr, Lora Moulton, Flora Stonebarger, Mary Bland, Maggie Stark, Rebecca Oren, Lydia Ward, Ada E. Sherman, Mary Roberts, Severina Koelzer, Mary McCaffrey, Agnes Graney, Jane Coffey, Kate Brock, Sarah A. Bennett, Hattie S. Wickens, Ada O'Roke, Lulu Smith, Sarah McKee, Anna Hartman, R. W. McKinley, Charles Miner, J. E. Sherrard, Jesse Everhard, Clara Larimer, Lizzie Trees, Mary Williams, Estella Stewart, Nettie Abbey, Effie Grubb, Martha Wolfley, Grace Means, Mrs. Emma Robinson, Mary Harness, J. E. McKinley, Ida Neiman, Edith Coston, Louesa Capper, Clara Kistner, Lillie Ludwig, Mrs. M. E. Todd, Eugene Dorcas, Amy Chandler, Jennie Lincoln, Robert J. Waugh, Joseph Denbring, Frank Welp, B. F. Eyer, Louisa Keepers, Mary Lincoln, Jennie McMillan, J. W. Emmert, Pauline Campbell, J. N. Largent, Hattie Church, Jennie Little, Sallie F. Potts, A. A. Walker, Allie Webster, S. S. Dorcas, Geo. J. Parks, Nettie Etter, J. J. Lockland, E. C. Shelton, Ada Lake, A. A. Brooks, Kate L. Losee, J. W. Roberts, Rosa Machamer, Anna Newland, Jennie Fisher, Bertha Winterbourne, Bertha Morton, F. C. Perkins, J. J. McCray, Chas. A. Haggard, Will M. Boylan, Eleanor Johnson, Allie G. Falconer, Lottie Balmer, Maud L. Skinner, P. K. Shoemaker, Wm. McBratney, Mrs. J. H. White, Mary Phillips, A. L. Funk, Kate E. Wickins, W. H. Higgins, Mattie Trees, A. A. Hyde, Thomas Kerr, Mrs. Nettie Milam, Elmer Bruce, S. S. Meeks, F. W. Plehn, Flora Brownlee, Julia Baker, Ina McClure, Nellie M. Amos, Alma Hamel, Mrs. M. E. Manwaring, Anna Stinson, Maud Skinner, J. H. Walters, J. L. Hermon, Sera Lamberson, Anna Gill, Chas. H. Lee, J. M. Manwaring, Emma Gillaspie, A. A. Songer, W. L. Critchlow; total, 167.

Fifteen years later, in June, 1900, J. G. Schofield, county superintendent, on the institute enrollment are found the names of Nellie G. Allison, Ada M. Anderson, Minnie Benedict, Maggie Blauer, Faye Burke,

Lela Capsey, Leona Clelland, Andrew Clelland, Perle Comp, Agnes Conwell, Charlotte Cottrell, Maude Cracraft, Ethel Cunningham, Edna Curtis, Grace Dennis, Bertha Dentler, Vertie DeWalt, Hettie DeWalt, Mollie Dillon, Mary Dougan, Kate Dougan, Jennie Douglass, Clemintina Drake, Emma Dyce, Josie Eigenman, Helen Emery, Winifred Evans, Grace Felt, Bert Fenner, Rose Fisher, Bessie Garrett, Bertha Garrison, Albert Gibbons, Nora E. Hamler, James A. Hamler, Rose Harsh, Mrs. Florence Hearne, Belle Heathe, Julius Henry, Lavina Hickey, Phoebe Hillman, Grace Hillman, E. G. Hoskinson, A. B. Huertter, Fannie Ingalls, Mamie Johnstone, Lillie J. Johnstone, Nora Keiser, Verna Keller, Margaret Kinnan, Chas. P. Knight, Anna Lahr, Bessie Lane, William W. Lilley, Grace Lockridge, Lena Lynn, Lillian Maynard, Bessie Miller, Leona Moore, Jessie Moss, Grace Munson, Pruelia Neff, Anna Neighbor, Jessie Newman, Lucretia Newman, Gertrude Nicholson, Etta Norton, Amy Norton, T. J. Nusbaum, Vera O'Roke, Lela O'Roke, Mary Ort, Ella Robertson, Francis H. Robinson, Ethel M. Schofield, Cora L. Schofield, Eva Scrafford, Mary Shoemaker, Mamie Sisson, Josie Skoch, Libbie Smith, Frank Smith, Robert Smith, Mae E. Steele, Allen Stewart, Grace M. Taylor, Maria A. Todd, Onah Torrence, Maud Ward, Myrtle Warrington, Fannie E. Wilkins, Edith M. Williams, Clara J. Williams, A. H. Wills, G. E. Wright, Eva L. Wright, Adala A. Yeanger, Mattie Leone Yeanger, Clarence Wilson, Mary Savage, Katie Savage, Isaac C. Gardner, Frank Hoover, Gladys Timberlake, Alice E. Latimer, Lucie Nowak, Daisy Ball, Dora Dorman, Lillie Dorman, Sarah Adriance, G. B. Timberlake, Pearl Gruno, Ethel Balmer, May Bristol, Lottie B. McCoy, Jennie Herold, Erma Keith, Lenna Myrick, Alice Emery, Emma McBratney, Esther Hillman, Mabel Larzelere, Dorothy Geyer, Bessie Taylor, Nellie Shoemaker, Hattie McColgin, Mamie Maddux, Katie Davidson, Bertha Brown, Francis L. Gallagher, Mildred Firstenberger, Ethel Hoskinson, Bessie B. Latimer, Orpha Martin, Levera Simon, Geo. W. Sourk, H. L. Greening, J. M. Denton; total, 140.

Another fifteen years later, June, 1915, W. R. Anthony, county superintendent, at institute are enrolled Hazel Anthony, Agnes Adams, Jewell Allen, Anna Allen, Agnes Assenmacher, Ethel M. Bradt, Laura Barndt, Edith L. Benner, Effie Butz, Celia Burke, Katherine Badesheim, Myrtle J. Brock, Pearl A. Barber, Fayra Bissell, Nellie Brien, Edna Baldwin, Leslie Burger, Mrs. Lela Boothe, Olive Bird, Anna Creevan, Lula Crosswhite, Mildred M. Cole, Susie Cordill, Bernice F. Conard, Morna Conard, Anna Campbell, Mary E. Cramer, Josephine Camp, Ella Curtis, Georgia T. Davis, Winona Davis, Margaret Dennis, Violet Dennis, Helen Detweiler, Ernestine Drum, Lucy Elizabeth Young, Nora Farley, Grace Funk, Violet Fish, Lucille Gunther, Helen Grollmes, Mildred Guffey, Ada Gaston, Mamie Herold, Daisy Haffner, Josie Hybskman, Cecil Hamlin, Lois Hatch, Olivia Hull, Bessie M. Jenkins, Lela Johnson, Lola Johnson, Gladys O. Kean, Lenora Kill, Ellen Kill, Zacha-

riah Kill, Rosalia Kramer, Olive Kirk, Lela Lightbody, May Lawrence, Emmett Lynch, Mary Lynch, Helen Loob, Victor Massenge, Bertha Markley, Nora Manley, Belle McGreevey, Winnie McClain, Elza Mize, Myrtle Millick, Ruth Moyer, Zella Munsell, June Meyer, Edith McBratney, Katherine Montgomery, Florence McClary, Inez Minger, Harriett E. Mooney, Bernice Nash, William Newlove, Katie Neil, Mrs. Bertha Owens, Anna O'Brien, Ethel Pfiester, Reba J. Paxton, Elsie Peckenaugh, Sybil Robinson, Sara Rooney, Hazel Rucker, Vera Ralph, Rose Savage, Sadie Sinclair, Beulah Stahn, Inez C. Shumaker, Frances Schrempp, Mary Springer, Alice Schoonover, Ray Springer, Esther Steinmeir, May Tyner, Clara Tyner, Lavina Tietz, Alice Vautravers,



PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING, GOFF, KANS.

Edith Van Buren, Mildred Winqvist, Lola Whitesell, Cecil M. Worley, Ethel L. Worley, Loretta Wells, Martha Wempe, Fannie F. Wileman, Thelma Wetmore, Milan Wasser, Dora Wells, Delpha Winkler, Amy E. Woollard, Mrs. Pearl White, Fern Yeakle, Iscah Zahm; total, 119.

#### DIRECTORY OF SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICERS AND TEACHERS OF NEMAHA COUNTY FOR THE YEAR 1886.

District 1, Centralia: A. J. Best, clerk; A. Harburger, treasurer; Henry Lohmuller, director; teachers, O. M. Bowman, William Wherland, Ada Kuhn and Sadie Montgomery.

District 2, Riverside: Wade Hampton, clerk; August Koster, treasurer; J. M. Taylor, director; teacher, Carrie E. Thompson.

District 3, Graham: J. M. Witmer, clerk; M. R. Connet, treasurer; William Yeanger, director; teacher, Mary Lincoln.

District 4, Ford: C. A. Sherman, clerk; Joseph Ford, treasurer; Giles Barney, director; teacher, J. N. Sargent.

District 5, Mentor: John Warrenburg, clerk; George F. Roots, treasurer; Nathan Baldwin, director; teacher, Benson Vernon.

District 6, Carroll: Samuel Thompson, clerk; James Montgomery, treasurer; Peter Creevan, director; teacher, Allen Lee.

District 7, White Hall: J. P. Sams, clerk; Hugh Ross, treasurer; W. M. Coston, director; teacher, Mrs. Ella D. Wohlford.

District 8, Union: Christian Nemeyer, clerk; Henry Hecht, treasurer; Andrew Beyreis, director; teacher, Anna Stinson.

District 9, Union Dale: J. N. Funk, clerk; Isaac Briggs, treasurer; William J. Ball, director; teacher, Sara Bennett.

District 10, Pleasant Hill: Gerard Letellier, clerk; E. U. Green, treasurer; S. Harris, director; teacher, J. W. Emmert.

District 11, City of Seneca: Abijah Wells, clerk; Willis Brown, treasurer; J. H. Hatch, director; teachers, J. G. Schofield, A. A. Brooks, Mrs. J. H. White, Mrs. E. M. Collins, Mrs. P. H. Stilson, Dora Taylor, Annie Newland, Flora Stewart.

District 12, Swerdfeger: V. B. Fisher, clerk; Augustus Beacher, treasurer; Richard Haxton, director; teacher, J. E. Sherrard.

District 13, Pleasant Hill: E. Swerdfeger, clerk; M. Morris, treasurer; E. G. Pool, director; teacher, Jennie Fisher.

District 14, Aurora: A. A. Rice, clerk; Chas. E. Luce, treasurer; William Wessell, director; teacher, Mary Anderson.

District 15, Liberty: Robert Marshall, clerk; C. H. Steinmeir, treasurer; Pierce Johnson, director; teacher, Minnie Burger.

District 16, Triumph: W. A. Sipher, clerk; William Chase, treasurer; Peter Koehler, director; teacher, Fannie Bennett.

District 17: M. H. Calnan, clerk; John Carroll, treasurer; Thomas Smith, director; teacher, Mary Morarity.

District 18, Pleasant Hill: S. Mason, clerk; L. H. Inman, treasurer; G. H. Buck, director; teacher, J. J. Lutz.

District 19, Rose Hill: G. W. Hannum, clerk; Wm. A. Young, treasurer; John Mills, director; teacher, Frank McCabe.

District 20, Victory: James Gillespie, clerk; S. R. Myers, treasurer; Guss Gardner, director; teacher, Rosa Machamer.

District 21, Kelly: A. J. Morgan, clerk; M. A. Zahniser, treasurer; W. P. Dennis, director; teacher, Julia E. Moore.

District 22, Old Lincoln: G. N. Lowe, clerk; Fred Kruger, treasurer; T. J. Nicholson, director; teacher, B. H. Hobbs.

District 23, Humphrey: D. R. Magill, clerk; Scott Humphrey, treasurer; E. R. Murphey, director; teacher, H. M. Elert.



District 24, Woodlawn: L. D. Tatman, clerk; Paul C. Halliss, treasurer; A. J. Dooley, director; teacher, Stella Guise.

District 25, Capioma: C. B. Sanford, clerk; G. W. Conrad, treasurer; Willis M. Hooper, director; teacher, A. A. Songer.

District 26, Pleasant Ridge: J. C. Byers, clerk; Reuben Lepley, treasurer; Isaac Lockard, director; teacher, Agnes Keegan.

District 27, Clear Creek: A. J. Coffin, clerk; J. M. Clark, treasurer; John Long, director; teacher, Etta Boram.

District 28, Rogers: William Clark, clerk; Thomas Rogers, treasurer; James Fisher, director; teacher, Eva Coleman.

District 29, Flag: Milton Todd, clerk; John O. Newton, treasurer; C. H. Hartman, director; teacher, Anna Ridenour.

District 30, Eureka: John Bauman, clerk; Nicholas Moser, treasurer; Isaac Schwisher, director; teacher, J. L. Ott.

District 31, Bancroft: David Keyser, clerk; Elias Woodburn, treasurer; Samuel Allen, director; teacher, F. K. Keller.

District 32, Eagle Star: Rudolph Stauffer, clerk; Christ Minger, treasurer; Christian Lehman, director; teacher, Clara Kistner.

District 33, St. Benedict: Timothy Heiman, clerk; Clement Blocker, treasurer; William Bernston, director; teacher, Sister Patricia.

District 34, Mt. Union: Edwin Capsey, clerk; A. J. Wolfley, treasurer; A. J. Gilbert, director; teacher, Belle McColgin.

District 35, Greenwood: P. T. Casey, clerk; J. T. Sanders, treasurer; George Blankley, director; teacher, W. H. Higgins.

District 36, Mulberry: Perry Wellever, clerk; J. E. King, treasurer; J. Denny, director; teacher, Hugh B. Carter.

District 37, Fairview: A. M. Kerr, clerk; Lewis Logan, treasurer; N. N. Williamson, director; teacher, Anna Kerr.

District 38, Head: J. F. Nipher, clerk; James Manuel, treasurer; C. A. Hale, director; teacher, Mary Hale.

District 39, Bethany: G. W. Myrick, clerk; C. J. Myrick, treasurer; A. M. Pitman, director; teacher, R. B. Huston.

District 40, I. X. L.: Frank McCarty, clerk; John Zimmerman, treasurer; I. Meisner, director; teacher, A. A. Walker.

District 41, Obendorf: W. A. Lynn, clerk; John Wohlford, treasurer; David VanPatten, director; teacher, P. K. Shoemaker.

District 42, Harris: Wm. H. H. Dooley, clerk; L. A. Kempin, treasurer; Henry Hilbert, director; teacher, Julia Dooley.

District 43, Eureka: Arthur McCray, clerk; Peter Shontz, treasurer; E. T. Brown, director; teacher, J. J. McCray.

District 44, Corning: R. A. Harris, clerk; C. C. Vinning, treasurer; Andrew Isaacson, director; teachers, F. W. Plehn, Ida Neiman.

District 45, Boardman: Samuel Curtis, clerk; R. E. Mayhew, treasurer; H. R. Boardman, director; teacher, Angeline Stickney.

District 46, Edgewood: Joshua Hobbs, clerk; D. Donning, treasurer; James Summerville, director; teacher, H. B. Carter.



District 47, Johnstone: M. M. Johnstone, clerk; J. B. Clifton, treasurer; William Johnstone, director; teacher, Thomas A. Kerr.

District 48, Maple Ridge: J. C. Sherrard, clerk; R. K. Steele, treasurer; E. Holister, director; teacher, Jessie Spencer.

District 49, Maple Shade: E. L. Clelland, clerk; John Denton, treasurer; R. A. Brown, director; teacher, Anna Dougan.

District 50, Social Hill: D. N. Rose, clerk; M. A. Worley, treasurer; T. M. Carr, director; teacher, Fannie Points.

District 51, Sabetha: S. Slosson, clerk; C. P. Branigan, treasurer; E. Haltzsch, director; teachers: I. B. Morgan, Ethel Fountain, Kate E. Wickins, Estella McClanahan, Minnie Branigan, Bertha Morton, Lena Mooney, Jennie Lilly.

District 52, Korber: Samuel Mosteller, clerk; Fred Korber, treasurer; Amos Custard, director; teacher, Estella Stewart.

District 53, Cole Creek: James Redmond, clerk; Edward Flaherty, treasurer; Henry Heer, director; teacher, D. O. Byrne.

District 54, Pleasant View: J. W. Firkins, clerk; O. M. Gage, treasurer; W. M. Gettle, director; teacher, E. E. Hobbs.

District 55, Armstrong: F. Howard, clerk; Simon Armstrong, treasurer; M. Z. Andrews, director; teacher, Bertha Neberhine.

District 56, Belleview: Wm. F. Weeks, clerk; Pat Byrne, treasurer; William McIntire, director; teacher, Effie L. Anderson.

District 57, Morning Star: Geo. W. Johnson, clerk; David Hardesty, treasurer; T. G. League, director; teacher, Jennie Little.

District 58, Blue Star: F. A. Loveless, clerk; W. H. Thornberry, treasurer; A. D. Lelievre, director; teacher, M. L. Loveless.

District 59, Marion: Frank Broxterman, clerk; Frank Macke, treasurer; Peter Koch, director; teacher, Jennie Coffey.

District 60, Hazel Grove: William Bleisner, clerk; George Pfrang, treasurer; M. Holmes, director; teacher, Nettie Milam.

District 61, Pinckney: A. H. Chilson, clerk; John Speilman, treasurer; D. R. Vorhes, director; teacher, Mary Seeley.

District 62, Berwick: C. H. Maddux, clerk; Fred Ukele, treasurer; C. M. Christenson, director; teacher, Linnie Ludwig.

District 63, Tranquil: Lewis Lyon, clerk; G. W. Greenfield, treasurer; George Donaldson, director; teacher, G. W. Stephenson.

District 64, Ehrsam: Jacob Ramsey, clerk; Barney Herold, treasurer; Henry Broomer, director; teacher, Mary Todd.

District 65, Prairie Grove: Conrad Droge, clerk; Henry Poppe, treasurer; A. Allison, director; teacher, H. S. Hay.

District 66, Mt. Vernon: E. S. Vernon, clerk; W. T. DeWalt, treasurer; H. H. Coston, director; teacher, Fannie Laird.

District 67, Star: T. J. Coulter, clerk; R. M. Bronaugh, treasurer; E. C. Mather, director; teacher, M. E. Clark.

District 68, Rock: R. J. Rose, clerk; John Hansz, treasurer; George Wick, director; teacher, W. H. Starkey.

District 69, Prairie View: Jacob P. Good, clerk; Job Brown, treasurer; Charles Krogman, director; teacher, Inez Alexander.

District 70, Pleasant View: Lemuel Kerns, clerk; John Campbell, treasurer; Milton Moore, director; teacher, Albert E. Mayhew.

District 71, Pleasant Ridge: J. W. Vernon, clerk; V. Hanger, treasurer; S. A. Goldsmith, director; teacher, Zilla Kuhn.

District 72, Social Hill: George Cox, Sr., clerk; C. C. Nissen, treasurer; Alfred Jones, director; teacher, B. F. Stout.

District 73, Pleasant Hill: H. C. Wilson, clerk; George Guilford, treasurer; A. L. Barnes, director; teacher, Jennie McBratney.

District 74, Cleveland, Mathias Schneider, clerk; Barney Bergman, treasurer; Edward Kempf, director.

District 75, Harmony: John A. Thompson, clerk; S. F. Thompson, treasurer; James Cleveland, director; teacher, Mattie Trees.

District 76, Center: Fred Hiskey, clerk; Frederick Burberry, treasurer; B. Woolman, director; teacher, C. H. Lee.

District 77, Willow Glen: Wm. E. McKibbin, clerk; G. O. Convill, treasurer; Garrett Cross, director; teacher, Martha Wolfley.

District 78, Rock Creek: W. S. Reed, clerk; J. Hesseltine, treasurer; W. M. Lichty, director; teacher, Mattie Shackelton.

District 79, Morning Star: Jessie Eyer, clerk; T. S. Gilmore, treasurer; Andrew Williamson, director; teacher, B. F. Eyer.

District 80, Summit: Michael Aldefer, clerk; John Draney, treasurer; Oswin Palmer, director; teacher, Lillie Rosenberger.

District 81, College Hill: Patrick Cantwell, clerk; Albert Becher, treasurer; Pat Gaughan, director; teacher, Alice Flaherty.

District 82, Prairie Star: C. J. Meisner, clerk; W. Elliott, treasurer; T. J. Freed, director; teacher, J. S. Baker.

District 83, Victory: R. L. Wheeler, clerk; Mrs. M. L. Holbrook, treasurer; Henry Koehler, director; teacher, Addie Sherman.

District 84, Hilt: John L. Aspinwall, clerk; James White, treasurer; Samuel Keim, director; teacher, Sherman Tyrrel.

District 85, Evening Star: J. R. Molineux, clerk; Z. Holland, treasurer; Peter Troxel, director; teacher, Dora Cox.

District 86, Goff: A. O. Hart, clerk; Dr. A. L. Warrington, treasurer; Thomas Berridge, director; teacher, A. A. Hyde.

District 87, Oneida: Frank Russell, clerk; Dr. S. Murdock, treasurer; J. J. Boxell, director; teachers, R. W. Reese and Clara Larimer.

District 88, Diamond: J. A. Purviance, clerk; R. L. Hobbs, treasurer; J. F. Vinson, director; teacher, Elmer Allen.

District 89, Sherman: Paul Huerter, clerk; L. H. Gaston, treasurer; Peter Schmitz, director; teacher, M. McCutcheon.

District 90, Eclipse: William Magee, clerk; F. M. Reed, treasurer; A. L. Conwell, director; teacher, J. T. Briggs.

District 91, Pleasant Ridge: Ira Bailey, clerk; H. M. Drown, treasurer; B. F. Dunham, director; teacher, Minnie Carr.

District 92, Bern: Gottlieb Striet, clerk; Jacob Spring, treasurer; S. C. Neff, director; teacher, George J. Parker.

District 93, Sunny Knoll: E. Kitchen, clerk; G. Gruetze, treasurer; H. N. Dawson, director; teacher, H. A. Nicholson.

District 94, Baileyville: W. A. Walker, clerk; W. J. Bailey, treasurer; W. H. Stall, director; teacher, G. H. Shields.

District 95, Cottonwood: David Finkenbinder, clerk; Henry Pilla, director; teacher, Louise Capper.

District 96, Grand View: Wayne Ford, clerk; Joseph Scheier, treasurer; J. M. Rowley, director; teacher, H. M. Wallace.

District 97, Domer: W. S. Domer, clerk; F. F. Goodwin, treasurer; W. H. Sunderland, director; teacher, Minnie Wohlford.

District 98, Shady Knoll: M. H. Maltby, clerk; W. A. Noffsinger, treasurer; A. E. Stuart, director; teacher, Clarence Keller.

District 99, Victor: C. R. McConkey, clerk; John R. Brokaw, treasurer; Samuel Cooper, director; teacher, Flora Stonebarger.

District 100, Forward: J. W. Johnson, clerk; O. K. Wilcox, treasurer; F. Bliesner, director; teacher, Mattie Woodburn.

District 101, U. S. Grant: F. G. Sitler, clerk; Thomas Scanlin, treasurer; N. E. Bunce, director; teacher, E. W. Fox.

District 102, Liberty: Joseph Roblyer, clerk; Dennis Maher, treasurer; Andrew J. Ford, director; teacher, Mrs. Mattie Roblyer.

District 103, Oak Grove: P. A. Wright, clerk; Thomas S. Anderson, treasurer; Henry F. Harter, director; teacher, Nettie Carmichael.

District 104, Concord: F. G. Millick, clerk; F. G. Hitchner, treasurer; J. G. Maelzer, director; teacher, Marshall Hittle.

District 1 N. and B., Albany: E. F. Bouton, clerk; C. J. Holden, treasurer; J. F. Rugsley, director; teacher, E. S. Lawrence.

District 6 N. and B., Granada: Samuel R. Guffey, clerk; John Achten, treasurer; William Spencer, director; teacher, Walter Hoskinson.

District 1 N. and J., Westmore: M. Worthey, clerk; H. C. DeForest, treasurer; H. A. Hough, director; teachers, P. L. Burlingame, Phoebe Anderson, Anna Gill and Catharine Thomas.

District 2 N. and J., Ontario: Jacob Wolley, clerk; John H. Campbell, treasurer; H. T. Barnes, director; teacher, Clara Ramy.

District 5 N. and P., Neuchatel: O. H. Wilsie, clerk; John Libbe, treasurer; C. B. Bonjour, director; teacher, D. C. Dille.

District 1 N. and M., Windy Ridge: Ed F. Davis, clerk; George M. Rasp, treasurer; C. R. W. Ford, director; teacher, Maud Skinner.

#### SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICERS OF NEMAHA COUNTY, 1915-18.

**Clerks (1915-1918)**—District 1, Brice J. King, Centralia; district 2, Carl Kroemer, Bern; district 3, E. N. Sigler, Baileyville; district 4, W. H. Barnard, Seneca; district 5, C. H. McClary, Centralia; district 6, Paul

Kirk, Axtell; district 7, W. U. Martsof, Centralia; district 8, Henry Beyreis, Seneca; district 9, C. A. Funk, Oneida; district 10, E. E. Smith, Vermillion; district 11, Dorothy Walker, Seneca; district 12, J. L. Davis, Wetmore; district 13, A. E. Wade, Wetmore; district 14, H. D. McConaughy, Wetmore; district 15, M. O. Johnson, Seneca; district 16, J. H. Waller, Seneca; district 17, J. P. Carroll, Axtell; district 18, Harry Duckers, Sabetha; district 19, John W. Crowley, Soldier; district 20, L. M. Crawford, Sabetha; district 21, D. H. Fitzgerald, Kelly; district 22, Henry A. Kruger, Seneca; district 23, John Moynagh, Seneca; district 24, C. A. Buck, Goff; district 25, Jessie Brownlee, Sabetha; district 26,



PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING, WETMORE, KANS.

W. F. Hickman, Baileyville; district 27, Frank Thomanson, Baileyville; district 28, John Baker, Seneca; district 29, J. M. Graney, Seneca; district 30, F. N. Rieri, Oneida; district 2 B. and G., W. D. Calder, Bancroft; district 32, C. A. Hasenager, Bern; district 33, F. A. Olberding, Seneca; district 34, W. H. Capsey, Soldier; district 35, Ora Clark, Corning; district 36, L. W. Harter, Centralia; district 37, J. S. Sourk, Goff; district 38, Joseph Huarter, Oneida; betha; district 41, Edward Myer, Centralia; district 42, E. R. Harris, Corning; district 43, G. S. Roberts, Centralia; district 44, J. B. Baker, Corning; district 45, A. R. Robeson, Centralia; district 46, A. N. Doolit-

tle, Onaga; district 47, Clint Longberg, Goff; district 48, Harry Foster, Sabetha; district 49, Barney Buessing, Goff; district 50, Jacob L. Kongs, Corning; district 51, C. A. Cave, Sabetha; district 52, Gottlieb Hanni, Bern; district 53, L. L. Newland, Corning; district 54, J. L. Firkins, Oneida; district 55, Fred Schmidt, Centralia; district 56, John F. Tyron, Baileyville; district 57, James Porter, Wetmore; district 58, H. Dutchmann, Seneca; district 59, Frank Broxtermann, Baileyville; district 60, John T. Callahan, Wetmore; district 61, H. C. Lackey, Seneca; district 62, E. T. Ukele, Berwick; district 63, W. E. Johnson, Sabetha; district 64, Alvin A. Lear, Bern; district 65, Louis Wiesedeppe, Seneca; district 66, C. W. Noland, Centralia; district 67, Mrs. J. F. Coulter, Vermilion; district 68, Barney Rottinghaus, Seneca; district 69, John Nolte, Seneca; district 70, A. W. Hammes, Baileyville; district 71, C. A. Hilbert, Corning; district 72, William Brady, Wetmore; district 73, R. E. Wilson, Centralia; district 74, Henry Engelken, Seneca; district 75, William Brunner, Sabetha; district 76, Mrs. Carrie Shirkey, Baileyville; district 77, A. F. Gabbert, Bancroft; district 78, Emil Marmet, Sabetha; district 79, John Barndt, Sabetha; district 80, J. C. Williamson, Sabetha; district 81, William Gaughan, Centralia; district 82, Ed Ramsey, Bern; district 83, Fred Wheeler, Seneca; district 84, F. E. Lehman, Bern; district 85, C. C. Munsel, Goff; district 86, C. S. Goodrich, Goff; district 87, J. L. Hagan, Oneida; district 88, Will McBride, Seneca; district 89, H. J. Holthaus, Seneca; district 90, J. H. Bauman, Oneida; district 91, Chas. H. Riggs, Goff; district 92, H. L. Guild, Bern; district 93, H. E. McKellips, Goff; district 94, Chas. V. Haynes, Baileyville; district 95, George Heimann, Baileyville; district 96, Joseph Lueger, Seneca; district 97, John Wiseman, Vermilion; district 99, Ernest Gerber, Oneida; district 100, J. C. Hackenberger, Goff; district 101, F. W. Richmond, Baileyville; district 102, E. E. Woodman, Vermillion; district 103, P. P. Waller, Oneida; district 104, Joseph Surdez, Onaga; district 105, William Broadbent, Corning; district 106, C. Britell, Centralia; district 107, Norman R. Fike, Sabetha; district 108, E. L. Flott, Sabetha; district 109, C. W. Kimmel, Sabetha; district 110, George Shaffer, Corning; district 111, John Moser, Sabetha; district 112, Jake Huerter, Kelly; district 113, J. H. Smith, Axtell; district 114, R. J. Hanni, Goff; district 115, Otis Warrenburg, Centralia; district 116, Jos. S. Bauman, Oneida; district 117, Mrs. Annie J. Weyer, Baileyville; district 118, H. M. Halfen, Axtell; district 119, W. W. Chilson, Corning; district 120, Mrs. Helen Haug, Vermillion; district 1NB, C. E. Sammons, Sabetha; district 6NB, R. L. Whitesell, Wetmore; district 1NJ, F. E. Smith, Wetmore; district 2NJ, W. E. Karns, Ontario; district 5NP, Carl Dodds, Onaga; district 1NM, O. J. Schafer, Vermillion.

**Treasurers (1914-1917)**—District 1, Scott Archer, Centralia; district 2, August Korber, Bern; district 3, J. M. Bronaugh, Baileyville; district 4, Charlie Parnell, Seneca; district 5, Hubert Clemens, Centralia; district 6, John F. Carroll, Axtell; district 7, Elmer Bedker, Centralia; district 8,

Henry Tegtmeier, DuBois, Neb.; district 9, W. C. Gilmore, Oneida; district 10, James Letellier, Centralia; district 11, B. J. Firstenberger, Seneca; district 12, T. K. Maxwell, Wetmore; district 13, James E. Martin, Wetmore; district 14, U. S. Curtiss, Wetmore; district 15, Louis Steinmeier, Seneca; district 16, Frank Mauer, Seneca; district 17, J. P. Mitchell, Axtell; district 18, John O. Yoder, Sabetha; district 19, O. G. Hannum, Soldier; district 20, J. H. Myers, Sabetha; district 21, Frank Teegarden, Kelly; district 22, J. J. Aziere, Seneca; district 23, Thomas Rogers, Seneca; district 24, O. Velvic, Goff; district 25, W. E. Phillips, Sabetha; district 26, J. E. McConnaughey, Pawnee City, Neb.; district 27, J. F. Keegan, Baileyville; district 28, Ed Flaherty, Seneca; district 29, B. F. Lohman, Seneca; district 30, Adolph Marti, Sabetha; district 31, L. J. Allen, Bancroft; district 32, Frank Andrews, Bern; district 33, John Haug, Seneca; district 34, Albert Swartz, Bancroft; district 35, U. G. Beck, Corning; district 36, F. H. Norton, Centralia; district 37, William Sourk, Goff; district 38, J. M. Swart, Oneida; district 39, W. G. Penn, Sabetha; district 40, C. Stoller, Sabetha; district 41, T. O. Barrett, Centralia; district 42, Arthur Tinklin, Corning; district 43, Frank Myers, Centralia; district 44, J. E. Woodworth, Corning; district 45, L. A. Thompson, Centralia; district 46, G. V. Hochard, Centralia; district 47, J. A. Hanks, Goff; district 48, F. M. Althouse, Sabetha; district 49, S. A. Chadwick, Goff; district 50, August Brokamp, Kelly; district 51, F. O. Weary, Sabetha; district 52, Henry Blauer, Bern; district 53, T. H. McNally, Corning; district 54, J. P. Mize, Oneida; district 55, Albert Flen-tie, Centralia; district 56, Henry Tangeman, Baileyville; district 57, Jas. H. Smith, Wetmore; district 58, William Oatman, Seneca; district 59, O. J. Larkin, Baileyville; district 60, J. E. Pfrang, Bancroft; district 61, Joseph A. Spielman, Seneca; district 62, A. B. Lanning, Sabetha; district 63, Frank Miller, Sabetha; district 64, Ed Ehram, Bern; district 65, W. H. Katz, Seneca; district 66, F. W. Holsapple, Corning; district 67, R. M. Morrison, Vermillion; district 68, J. T. Amos, Seneca; district 69, Anton Olberding, Baileyville; district 70, John Koch, Baileyville; district 71, John Nightengale, Corning; district 72, W. M. Bartley, Bancroft; district 73, John Shaefer, Centralia; district 74, Henry Heiman, Seneca; district 75, C. W. Hatfield, Sabetha; district 76, W. J. Griffiths, Baileyville; district 77, Charles McMahon, Bancroft; district 78, Hiram Mishler, Sabetha; district 79, R. R. Gilmore, Oneida; district 80, Albert Ackerman, Sabetha; district 81, George Becker Onaga; district 82, Fred Hanni, Bern; district 83, Thomas Sherlock, Seneca; district 84, Gottfried Lortscher, Bern; district 85, Tom Fish, Goff; district 86, Bayard Taylor, Goff; district 87, D. S. Coleman, Oneida; district 88, Joe Ronnebaum, Seneca; district 89, S. T. Hogle, Seneca; district 90, A. G. Conwell, Oneida; district 91, Mike Brock, Goff; district 92, Jacob Spring, Bern; district 93, John Gruetze, Goff; district 94, J. M. Everts, Baileyville; district 95, Henry Dick, Baileyville; district 96, Joseph Olberding, Seneca; district 100, John Freel, Goff; district 101, D. B. Sullivan, Bailey-

ville; district 102, L. H. McIntire, Centralia; district 103, T. S. Anderson, Oneida; district 104, F. G. Millick, Centralia; district 105, William Bumphrey, Corning; district 106, R. E. Mather, Centralia; district 107, J. C. Aeschleman, Sabetha; district 108, Bert Hesseltine, Sabetha; district 109, Walter Dandliker, Sabetha; district 110, 112, Bert Henderson, Kelly; district 113, S. S. Anderson, Baileyville; district 114, M. D. Garvin, Goff; district 115, O. C. Hardin, Centralia; district 116, F. W. Miller, Oneida; district 117, E. W. Weyer, Baileyville; district 118, August Enneking, Baileyville; district 119, Claude Grigsby, Corning; district 120, Mrs. Gertie Vestal, Vermillion; district 1NB, E. E. Williams, Sabetha; district 6NB, Henry Zabel, Wetmore; district 1NJ, Mrs. L. A. Achten, Wetmore; district 2NJ, W. E. Davis, Bancroft; district 5NP, J. A. Bonjour, Onaga; district 1NM, E. M. McAtee, Vermillion.

**Directors (1913-1916)**—District 1, C. C. Wadleigh, Centralia; district 2, C. H. Meier, Bern; district 3, J. A. Witmer, Baileyville; district 4, G. R. Gilkerson, Seneca; district 5, R. S. Coe, Centralia; district 6, Oscar Clear, Axtell; district 7, Eugene Moyer, Centralia; district 8, C. H. Brademeier, Seneca; district 9, Clinton Ball, Oneida; district 10, V. D. Crawford, Vermillion; district 11, R. T. Bruner, Seneca; district 12, J. L. McDaniels, Wetmore; district 13, Roy Shumaker, Wetmore; district 14, W. N. Rolfe, Wetmore; district 15, H. D. Burger, Seneca; district 16, Andrew Volz, Seneca; district 17, D. E. Mitchell, Axtell; district 18, Frank Norrie, Sabetha; district 19, A. J. Clem, Goff; district 20, George Althouse, Sabetha; district 21, Bert Cole, Kelly; district 22, C. R. Bales, Seneca; district 23, George Hutton, Seneca; district 24, Alex McClain, Goff; district 25, J. M. Ralston, Sabetha; district 26, W. H. Grubb, Pawnee City, Neb.; district 27, James Keegan, Baileyville; district 28, M. W. McCaffrey, Seneca; district 29, G. F. Heiniger, Seneca; district 30, Henry W. Stoldt, Sabetha; district 2BG, Fred A. Cordon, Bancroft; district 32, Gottlieb Pauli, Bern; district 33, Barney Haferkamp, Seneca; district 34, J. B. Barnes, Soldier; district 35, Jesse Jones, Corning; district 36, S. S. Meek, Centralia; district 37, R. T. McKee, Goff; district 38, Gottlieb Schneider, Seneca; district 39, W. J. Kehler, Sabetha; district 40, S. C. Jackson, Sabetha; district 41, Charles Kimball, Centralia; district 42, Hugh Werner, Goff; district 43, William Brooks, Centralia; district 44, C. W. Dixon, Corning; district 45, W. A. Wohlford, Centralia; district 46, F. M. Labbe, Onaga; district 47, B. F. Ellegood, Goff; district 48, G. J. Quinlan, Sabetha; district 49, Jacob Fisher, Goff; district 50, Charles Jorden, Corning; district 51, A. J. Collins, Sabetha; district 52, F. W. Korber, Bern; district 53, John Flaherty, Corning; district 54, Mrs. William King, Goff; district 55, D. H. McLaughlin, Centralia; district 56, J. J. Skoch, Baileyville; district 57, J. F. Hawley, Wetmore; district 58, William Mathewson, Seneca; district 59, Theodore Hammes, Baileyville; district 60, F. W. Alumbaugh, Bancroft; district 61, Barney Wichman, Seneca; district 62, Louis Feldman, Berwick; district 63, F. B.



Lyons, Sabetha; district 64, Frank Borchardt, Bern; district 65, R. T. Allison, Seneca; district 66, W. T. DeWalt, Centralia; district 67, Thomas Coffey, Vermillion; district 68, John Kelly, Seneca; district 69, Charles Krogmann, Seneca; district 70, Will Scanlan, Baileyville; district 71, John W. Peret, Centralia; district 72, A. M. Nissen, Wetmore; district 73, T. S. Fanning, Centralia; district 74, August Haug, Seneca; district 75, Paul Masheter, Sabetha; district 76, W. A. Weyer, Baileyville; district 77, George Calhoun, Goff; district 78, Walter Mason, Sabetha; district 79, H. H. Guise, Oneida; district 80, John Meisner, Sabetha; district 81, Peter Burke, Centralia; district 82, C. C. Geissel, Bern; district 83, A. J. Spielman, Seneca; district 84, Lewis S. Hilt, Bern; district 85, F. C. McClain, Goff; district 86, F. J. Watkins, Goff; district 87, Frank Russell, Oneida; district 88, Henry Burdick, Seneca; district 89, A. H. Gaston, Seneca; district 90, C. Grimm, Oneida; district 91, T. V. McDaniels, Goff; district 92, Mrs. Myrtle Blauer, Bern; district 93, W. J. Hailey, Goff; district 94, A. B. Griffiths, Baileyville; district 95, John Hulsing, Jr., Baileyville; district 96, August Haeefe, Seneca; district 97, E. A. Mann, Vermillion; district 99, Fred Pfau, Oneida; district 100, J. L. Sanders, Goff; district 101, Joseph Stueve, Baileyville; district 102, Clarence Howard, Centralia; district 103, S. M. Anderson, Oneida; district 104, F. G. Hitchner, Centralia; district 105, William Thompson, Corning; district 106, W. N. DeBoard, Centralia; district 107, T. J. Meisner, Sabetha; district 108, Samuel Beyers, Sabetha; district 109, Fred Lortscher, Sabetha; district 110, N. R. Williams, Corning; district 111, John Heiniger, Sabetha; district 112, John Heinen, Kelly; district 113, W. P. Madden, Axtell; district 114, William Roach, Goff; district 115, William Wright, Centralia; district 116, Geo. W. Meisner, Bern; district 117, Mrs. Etta Coulter, Baileyville; district 118, J. B. Oenbring, Baileyville; district 119, C. W. Gorden, Centralia; district 120, Charles McGowan, Vermillion; district 1NB, E. E. White, Sabetha; district 6NB, C. E. Chase, Wetmore; district 1NJ, Henry Mell, Wetmore; district 2NJ, Frank Cordon, Circleville; district 5NP, S. J. Keeney, Onaga; district 1NM, Mrs. Maxie VanGilder, Vermillion.

#### JOINT DISTRICTS, not under the jurisdiction of this county:

**Clerks (1915-1918)**—District 4NB, J. A. Bockenstette, Fairview; district 5NB, John Hannah, Netawaka; district 1NJP, A. H. Brenner, Soldier; district 6NP, George Shields, Corning; district 8NP, J. J. Lefebvre, Onaga.

**Treasurers (1914-1917)**—District 4NB, Hugh O'Grady, Sabetha; district 5NB, Frank Reeves, Netawaka; district 1NJP, J. S. Armstrong, America City; district 6NP, J. K. Shields, Havensville; district 8NP, Elmer Noble, Onaga.

**Directors (1913-1916)**—District 4NB, Michael Banks, Fairview; district 5NB, Lewis Lynn, Netawaka; district 1NJP, Roy Tolin, Ameri-



ca City; district 6NP, H. H. Hunt, Corning; district 8NP, O. J. Ward, Havensville.

It is interesting to note that the records in the county superintendent's office show, in a number of cases, that many of the men who took part in the organization of the district and served as first officers are still members of the school board.

While the rural schools of Nemaha county have not reached an ideal standard, they have advanced with the progress of the times and rank well with the schools of other parts of the State. Many of our prosperous and loyal citizens value very highly the training they re-



HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, CENTRALIA, KANS.

ceived even in the small rural school. As a rule, the teachers have been well qualified and the schools have been of great value to the children of the county, many of whom had no opportunity of further education.

As soon as practical, each of the city or village schools began to increase the course of study to include some high school work and to employ the necessary teachers to conduct the classes in the higher subjects. Today there are ten city high schools in Nemaha county, six of them doing accredited work and two others doing work approved by the State board.

Both Seneca and Sabetha are cities of the second class, and carry, in addition to the regular college preparatory course of study, a normal training, domestic science and commercial course. These schools have a very efficient corps of teachers, under the supervision of experienced superintendents, R. G. Mueller, of Seneca, in his ninth year, and George A. Allen, Jr., of Sabetha, in his fifth year, and are fully accredited.

The schools of Wetmore and Centralia are fully accredited and rank next to Seneca and Sabetha. The work done is equal to that of any of our best schools, and the building and equipment are very good. Supt. Albert A. Dreier enters upon his fourth year at Wetmore in September, 1916, and Supt. George O. Kean has just closed his sixth year, four consecutive, at Centralia.

The schools of Goff and Corning are smaller, but both do good work and are accredited high schools. Goff has an excellent building, of which the citizens of the town have just cause for being proud, and the equipment of the school is being increased as fast as the funds of the district will admit. Corning needs a new building, and the district is making provision for a building fund. These districts are so small that it requires a heavy tax rate to raise adequate funds for carrying on the schools. Both need some adjoining territory, either by consolidation or by the establishment of a rural high school in each city, as provided in recent legislation. Supt. George O. Kean has been elected to the superintendency of the Goff schools for 1916, and Supt. J. F. Whitaker is entering upon his third year at Corning.

Bern, while not accredited, is rapidly coming to the front. A new modern building has just been completed and equipped and an excellent quota of teachers employed. The course of study for the present will cover three years of high school work. With the new building and equipment, Bern is the logical point for a splendid rural high school for Washington township, and with the co-operation of the surrounding community, the standard of the school will no doubt soon be raised to a four years' fully accredited high school. The value of a movement of this kind to the young people of the Bern community is beyond estimation.

The little city of Oneida has a splendid school, doing four years' high school work. Many of her graduates have been very successful teachers in the schools of the county and others are filling with credit places of importance in other lines of business. The people of the little city are very loyal in their support of schools, but, like other small towns, Oneida needs the co-operation of the surrounding districts. If consolidation is not desirable, the provisions of the rural high school law might make it possible for a new building and better school equipment to be obtained without the tax becoming a burden to the community.

Bancroft has a good village school of three teachers, whose work is very praiseworthy. Some high school work is done, but the equipment and teaching force do not warrant approval by the State board.

Baileyville has a two-room school and excellent work is done. Only one year of high school is attempted.

These ten schools, doing more or less high school work, have proven of inestimable value to the young people of the county, and each year classes graduate from them, thus laying the foundation for a better qualification for the duties of life.

Nemaha county rejected, by vote, both the Barnes high school law and the county high school plan; but the excellent city high schools maintained throughout the county seem to provide adequately for the young people who complete the grades to enter and finish high school, in many cases the district paying the high school tuition of its graduates. Every year a large class finishes the eighth grade of both the rural and graded schools, and many of these enter some convenient high school. It is gratifying to note that Nemaha county is well represented in the higher institutions of learning by these young people who have finished our high schools. Since recent legislation has given us a rural high school law, providing for the establishment of high schools in rural communities, no doubt the people will promptly avail themselves of the privileges and advantages of this law.

The State department, under the supervision of State Superintendent W. D. Ross, is endeavoring to strengthen and enlarge the usefulness of the rural schools by a system of standardization whereby the equipment and conveniences of rural schools may be made more uniform and complete. The rural school inspectors are visiting and classifying the schools of the State as rapidly as possible, checking them up on the requirements of standardization. One of the inspectors, J. A. Shoemaker, was in Nemaha county a few days last April, and while it was too late in the year to find all our schools in session, he visited about twenty schools, in company with the county superintendent, and reported his findings to the boards of the various districts visited. None of them were complete enough in all requirements for standard schools, but it is hoped that the people will respond readily to the demand for better equipment, whether in apparatus, seating, or buildings, and that several of our best schools may be labeled "Standard School" before the close of the present school year.

The subject of consolidation of schools as provided by law has received some attention in Nemaha county, but in almost every case has met with decided opposition. So well has the rural school filled its mission that the people are slow to give up the "tried and true" for a system with which they are not familiar. However, owing to changing conditions in communities, brought about mainly by the tendency of land owners to leave the farm and move to town, often placing a tenant or hired man on the farm, many of our rural schools have become almost depopulated, just a few pupils left to go to school, often not over one or two to a class. Where these conditions exist, interest in the school wanes and appropriations for equipment, teachers' wages, length

of term, etc., drop to the minimum. For such communities as these, the consolidated school seems to be the only rational solution of the school problem.

Consolidation means the uniting of several weak, one-teacher, poorly graded schools into a strong, efficient, graded school, housed in a comfortable building, with several teachers, who can give sufficient time to each recitation to make the work fruitful. Consolidation in nearly every instance means the transportation of a portion of the pupils. This transportation is accomplished by conveying the children in safe and comfortable vehicles, holding from fifteen to twenty-five children, and driven by competent and reliable men under contract and bonds to perform their duties in a satisfactory way. It is oftentimes cheaper to transport a few children to a school than to establish a school for them. This is because a wagon is cheaper than a school house, horses cheaper than fuel, and because drivers cost less than school teachers.

### SCHOOL CENTRALIZATION.

Centralization of the public schools probably had its origin in the Western Reserve section of Ohio several years ago, and the system as applied to the rural schools has been tried to such an extent that it is deemed an unqualified success. There are many points in favor of the system of centralizing or "consolidating" the rural schools in order that the pupils in the country or rural districts might have the advantages of a graded and high school training without the necessity of leaving home and going to the nearest town or county seat in order to attend the graded and high school—a plan requiring that they be away from home and placing considerable extra expense upon their parents.

School "centralization," as it is called in Ohio and other Eastern States, provides the abandonment of all rural schools in the township and the building of a central high school in the center of the township. It provides for transportation of all pupils of every age to this central school building each morning and for their return to their homes at night.

One of the centralized or consolidated systems was placed in operation at Mantua, Ohio, in the year 1903, and time has proven that it has many merits far ahead of the old plan of having small district schools and many teachers. Nine districts in the township were abandoned. Nine teachers were dispensed with, and the work done at the township center by five teachers, including the superintendent and principal. Previous to the centralization, the township had maintained a high school and township supervision, which was fairly satisfactory. A number of the more ambitious and forward citizens desired to go a step further and centralize or consolidate the entire township. Bitter opposition developed, some of it sentimental, but the greater part of the opposition came from those who had no children to educate and were

afraid of higher taxation. Two elections were necessary to carry the township for the new system. It was inaugurated the following year in buildings at the township center, and every district school abandoned except one. Six wagons transport the pupils from their homes to the school comfortable and happy each morning. Almost from the start there was a distinct change in the personality of the pupils and marked increase in their progress, made possible by the fact that they were placed in grades and a longer period given for study and recitation. So pleased were the people with the outcome of the first year that they readily voted a higher tax to add additional teachers to the force and increase the high school facilities. The one lone district which had objected to the centralization plan so forcibly that they were permitted to maintain their rural school, petitioned to have the rural school abandoned and the pupils of the district given free transportation to the central school. Land values in the township have increased because of the fact that a better class of tenants were moving to the tenant farms, and buyers were more in evidence for the land. This centralized school has been in existence for thirteen years and is looked upon as a model of its kind in Ohio and elsewhere. The action of Mantua township, in Portage county, Ohio, was followed in succeeding years by other townships, and it is only a question of years when the rural school in Ohio and Indiana and parts of Illinois will be a thing of the past.

The argument of the opponents of centralization or consolidation of rural schools that the system "costs more" and makes taxes higher is just. Better schools do cost more money. But the advantages and benefits received by the neighborhood far outweigh and overbalance the cost. The extra cost of a consolidated school will not equal the present cost which citizens who are ambitious to give their children a high school education in some town in the county, are compelled to pay. There is not a township in Nemaha county but could have a consolidated school. The movement is gaining ground in Iowa and in parts of Nebraska, Wisconsin and Michigan, and is destined to be taken up in Kansas at no late day.

Wherever intelligent consolidations have been made, the results are always the same—an increased attendance, a better average, and more interest. In short, a first-class, well-taught school takes the place of the "kept" one-teacher school we have at present in so many communities.

The parent who wants to educate his child, who wants him to have the faculties of the mind expanded and the attributes of the soul fully developed, cannot afford to fail to aid in this great movement. Surely, the little ones, who are reaching up with their silent, isolated appeal for a better chance in life, will have a hearty and ready response from every thoughtful, loving parent.

Let us reason together over these propositions. Let us place the good of the child above all else. Let us educate them so that they shall walk upon mountain tops of exalted, progressive, glorified American citizenship.

If you who read this have been so unfortunate as not to have acquired an education, ponder on the opportunities you have lost, on the embarrassment which has been yours, on the ideals you have failed to realize, and then, when you have done this, I am sure you will lay your hands on the heads of your little ones and exclaim: "Please God, these shall have the opportunities I have missed."

There are also in Nemaha county several parochial schools that deserve notice in this comment on "Schools and Education." The St. Peter and Paul's school at Seneca with nine sisters as teachers, under the direction of Father Joseph, O. S. B., has an enrollment of about three hundred pupils. The curriculum covers ten grades and the school has an excellent reputation. Father Joseph has taken the necessary steps for the approval for high school credits by the State board of the two years' high school work done by the school. This will strengthen the school for the young people of like faith, who must have high school credits to obtain certificates as teachers in the public schools of the county.

St. Mary's school at St Benedict has an excellent building, well equipped. Father Gregory, assisted by an able corps of sisters, conducts the school, which has an enrollment of more than one hundred. Only graded work is taken up in this school, in connection with religious instruction.

St. Bede's school at Kelly, under the supervision of Father Edwin, is a splendid school, with an enrollment of about one hundred pupils. He has three teachers, who are experienced instructors, and the course of study covers eight grades.

Sacred Heart school at Baileyville, Father Hohe, O. S. B., in charge, is a growing institution, well patronized by the surrounding homes of the Catholic faith. This school is new and has a good building. The enrollment last year was eighty pupils.

Some statistics from the superintendent's annual report:

The two second class cities, Seneca and Sabetha, with a school census of 1,172 pupils, paid their thirty-three teachers \$20,129, almost \$20 to the pupil.

The eight third class cities, Wetmore, Centralia, Goff, Corning, Bern, Oneida, Bancroft and Baileyville, with a school census of 1,129 pupils paid their thirty-eight teachers \$22,650, a little more than \$20 to the pupil.

The 110 rural schools, with a school census of 3,698 pupils, paid their 110 teachers \$42,172, just a little more than \$10 a pupil.

#### NOTABLE TEACHERS.

C. C. Starr, assistant State superintendent, was appointed to his position from superintendent of the Seneca schools. He is now head of the schools in Fresno, Cal. I. B. Morgan, head of the schools of Kansas





*Mattie Trees.*



City, was one of the brilliant teachers in Sabetha, having been superintendent of the schools in Sabetha previous to his Kansas City appointments.

Miss Mattie Trees, now a member of the Sabetha school board, has a record as a teacher of Nemaha county and Sabetha of which to be proud. It is doubtful if a teacher in the State can equal it. Miss Trees taught school in Sabetha for twenty-nine years without ever losing a day from her work. Hundreds of men, women and children owe allegiance to her. Miss Trees, herself, never had a high school education. She attended the country schools near her home, south of Sabetha, from the time she was five years until she was nearly fourteen. Every summer she attended normal school, either at home in Sabetha or in Seneca, Emporia or Holton. There has hardly been a month since she was a tiny girl that Miss Trees has not been in a school in one capacity or another, until her resignation to care for her mother a few years ago. She was fortunate in her teachers at the country school. She studied under Henry Isely, Mr. Carothers and Mr. Mellenbrush. These three men owned farms in the vicinity, but were graduates of Eastern colleges. They took pleasure in teaching their apt pupil the higher branches. She consequently received instruction in many studies that do not come even in the regular high school curriculum. All three teachers are now dead. Prof. E. G. Hoffman, a principal of Hiawatha schools, once told a number of Miss Trees' pupils that when she was his pupil at Holton she took the entire first year's course in Latin in ten weeks.

Miss Trees received her first certificate entitling her to teach when she was fourteen years old. The first school she taught was the Victory school, six miles southwest of Sabetha. Mrs. Hattie West Benson was teaching the school at the time. She got a chance to take a higher school and asked Miss Trees if she would take the Victory school. Needless to say, Miss Trees did not let the grass grow under her feet in putting in an application. James Belyea was the president of the school board, and he was shocked at the applicant's youthfulness. He claimed no little girl like that could teach school. Miss Trees finally persuaded him to let her try it for a month. The name of the school, Victory, was suggestive of the girl teacher's success. For Mr. Belyea was so satisfied with her that she was retained in the position for six years.

Later, she taught in the Spring Grove, Franklin, Harmony and Summit schools, all in this vicinity.

Then she was engaged to teach in the Sabetha schools. She started with the sixth and seventh grades. When they divided these grades, she retained the seventh. Then she was given the seventh and eighth. When these grades in their turn were divided she was given the ninth grade. Later the ninth grade was abolished and Miss Trees was given her position in the high school, which she held for eight years, and which she has recently resigned.

Miss Trees started Dr. Orville Brown, who is now in Europe taking

a special course in medicine, on his educational career. Fred Faragher, who is professor of chemistry at the Kansas State University, is another of her pupils. Of the teachers in the Sabetha schools and other schools in the vicinity, Misses Jennie Douglass, Minnie Meisner, Daisy Buck, Florence Fagan, Emma Cashman, Birdie Masheter and Charles Smith went to school to Miss Trees. Stanley Ford, a teacher in the Kansas City schools, is another of Miss Trees' pupils who is prospering because of her instructions.

She has always been immensely popular as a teacher and dearly loved as a friend by her pupils. And upon their learning of her decision to retire, there were not only protestations, but tears.

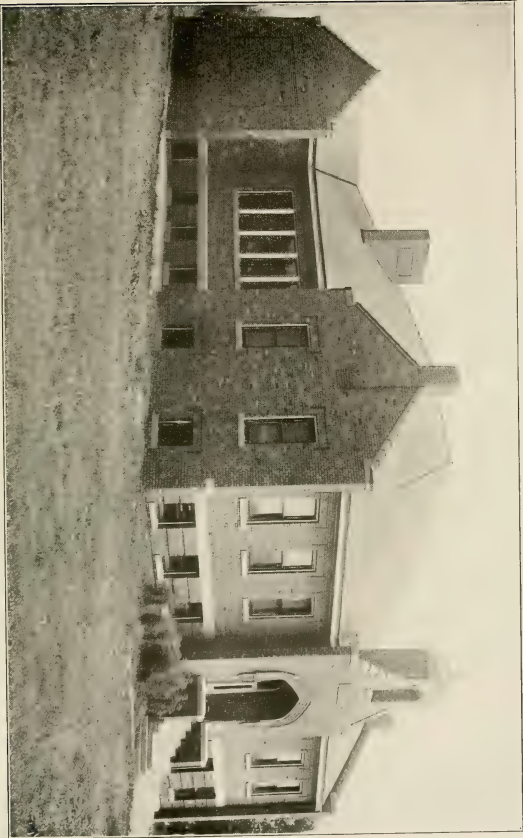
A school teacher who has made more than good in the big world following pedagogical ministrations in Nemaha county is Dr. Maurice King, now of New York City, a Centralia boy. Dr. King attained the position of chief medical examiner of the New York Life Insurance Company in New York. To guess his salary at \$10,000 is probably putting it mildly. While Dr. King was studying medicine he taught school near Centralia and lived with his sister, Mrs. Durland. A. C. Durland, who died a few years ago, was responsible for bringing the King family to Nemaha county. He lived near the Kings in New York before coming to Kansas. After settling near Centralia, he went back and married one of the daughters. The father of this fine family was a Swiss-German. He made a fortune in New York in the manufacture of Switzer cheese. The other children came to visit Mrs. Durland, and most of them married here. Price King is a son-in-law of Dr. A. S. Best. Albert King married a daughter of A. Oberndorf, the Centralia banker, and now lives in Kansas City. Another sister, Mrs. I. Mapes, also lives in Kansas City. The father never lived in Centralia, having died many years ago. The mother lived there with her children for many years. She, too, is now dead. Their children have made some of the finest citizens of which Nemaha county boasts.

### THE ALBANY SCHOOL.

The most antiquated and venerable looking building in this part of the county is the Albany stone school house. The walls are weather beaten, and the building has a silent and mysterious atmosphere, as if there might be a strange, and romantic tale hidden in some remote and dark closet inside the heavy pile of masonry.

As a matter of fact, the old building had its hopes and ambitions at one time, but in an evil hour a vulgar railroad crept up and chilled it. When the Grand Island was being built, Albany was a better town than Sabetha, but the grade into Albany was too steep, and the road swung around into Sabetha, and the old stone school house has been sullen and silent ever since.

The school house was erected in 1866. The stone for it was quar-



ST. MARY'S PAROCHIAL SCHOOL, ST. BENEDICT, KANSAS.



ried somewhere near the old Fox place. The building is a heavy affair, two stories high. Originally it was hoped to have the school developed into a college, and it was believed that the two rooms would grow into a hundred and that the small beginning would be the nucleus of a notable seat of learning.

Pupils came from far and wide to attend the school, which was the most important school for twenty miles around. It was found necessary to build a boarding house next to it, and the boarding house was always filled with pupils who lived too far away to go home daily.

The first teacher was I. D. Sammons, now of Pennsylvania, father of C. E. Sammons. He taught the school in 1867. Another early teacher was the late Samuel Slosson. Mrs. Jennie S. Landrum, now deceased, also taught the school in the early days. Mrs. W. B. Lawrence taught the school longer than any other person. She taught the school fifteen years, resigning many years ago to better attend to household duties. Some of Mrs. Lawrence's first pupils grew up and were married and she taught their children.

The removal of Albany to Sabetha caused a rapid decline in attendance at the Albany school, and now only one room, the one on the first floor, is used. The room on the second floor is closed. When the decline in Albany began, even the buildings left, some of them being moved two miles to Sabetha.

### A BELOVED TEACHER.

"The report of the county Normal institutes held in the year 1877 shows that they were held in sixty counties. The first was held in Nemaha county, opening June 5. It held for twenty days. I attended this institute. The highest salary paid a conductor was \$185, to J. M. Greenwood, in Elk; while Nemaha paid \$140. In average attendance, Nemaha stands thirtieth. During the sessions of the institute, lectures were given on educational topics. State Superintendent Lemmon and S. A. Felter, who was conductor, gave lectures in Seneca. Abijah Wells was county superintendent at the time," writes Mrs. Emily Collins.

Mrs. Emily Collins, a beloved citizen of Nemaha county, has been faithfully attending institutes ever since, for this year she completes her thirty-eighth year as teacher of the primary grade in the Seneca schools. In that period, she has lost no time. In hundreds of cases, Mrs. Collins has taught the second generation, and in one case at least, has taught the grandson, having started in school the mother and grandmother of the little lad. Her hair has grown to the softest white, but her eyes retain the fire of her youth, and her sympathy and understanding of childhood has only increased with each year spent in their midst. Mrs. Collins never looks forward to the first of June as a release from her labors, but anxiously awaits the summer's end, when

she may again be with the little ones whom she starts on the way to knowledge. Every year Mrs. Collins has a picture taken of the class. On her schoolroom walls are pictures at all stages of photography. Among the interesting are the old-fashioned chromos of two little girls, one curly head surrounded by daisies, another by roses, which the children of forty years ago remember as the first pictures hung on their nursery or bedroom walls. These favorites of other days have not been removed for more modern works of art, but have merely been moved over that the newer photographs and gravures may have wall space. Mrs. Collins' home is as rare as her schoolroom and herself. She has a remarkably fine library of hundreds and hundreds of books, which will be left to Seneca if that town ever has a public library. The house resembles a quaint old church, and is hung with vines and the yard filled with old-fashioned flowers. The 1915 high school annual was dedicated to Mrs. Collins. E. W. Howe, founder of the Atchison "Globe," and editor of Howe's monthly magazine, the most widely quoted writer in America, lectured in 1915 on "The People in the Audience." He said the following of Mrs. Collins, who was "among those present." "Mrs. Collins has taught for thirty-seven years. This fact is remarkable, but the more remarkable is Mrs. Collins' personality. I have never seen a woman of her age equally well preserved; not only as to health, but as to disposition. On her face are written in unmistakable characters, peace, charity, and kindliness. She is a greater woman than Jane Adams. A speaker in the Chautauqua referred to Mrs. Collins, and there was a burst of applause, as the people of Seneca love her. Pictures of saints give them faces that are sometimes, usually, I think, ludicrous. The artists try so hard to represent the virtues in oil. There are no people who have "never said an unkind word of anyone"; there are no saints on earth, but the saintliest face I have ever seen belongs to Mrs. Collins, who has taught half the men and women of Seneca, and never whipped any of them."

## CHAPTER XXIX.

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### LODGES AND SOCIETIES.

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MASONIC, THE FIRST TO ORGANIZE—ROYAL ARCH MASONS IN 1877—  
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC—WOMEN'S RELIEF CORPS—MASONIC  
—ODD FELLOWS—KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS—KNIGHTS AND LADIES OF  
SECURITY—MODERN WOODMEN—ROYAL NEIGHBORS—ANCIENT OR-  
DER OF UNITED WORKMEN—DEGREE OF HONOR—FIRE DEPARTMENT  
—C. M. B. A.—ORGANIZATIONS AND OFFICERS—CLUBS AND SOCIAL  
GATHERINGS.

While Nemaha county men and women would not be called "jiners," in that acceptance of the word which indicates going into anything that comes along, there have been, since early days, several solid lodges faithfully and profitably supported in all communities in the county. Seneca, the county seat, naturally organized the first lodge, which was the Masonic, A. F. and A. M., organized in September, 1863. Byron Shelley, A. K. Moore, J. H. Peckham, L. B. Jones and Hiram Johnson were the original officers. The Eastern Star lodge was organized in October, 1878. J. H. Hatch, Mrs. Peckham and Mrs. Brown were original officers.

The Royal Arch Masons was formed in 1877 with Willis Brown as high priest, and other offices filled by S. B. Murphy, John F. McGowan and J. E. Black. An attempt was made in 1864 to organize a chapter of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, but it was not effected until two years later, with Delos Acker and William Histed as officials.

Seneca's present orders, with officials, are as follows:

#### GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

George Graham Post No. 92—Meets first and third Saturdays at 2 p. m. in G. A. R. hall. George Root, post commander.

#### WOMEN'S RELIEF CORPS.

The Women's Relief Corps—Meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the G. A. R. hall at 2:30 p. m. Lizzie Wetmore, president.

## MASONIC.

Seneca Lodge No. 39, A. F. & A. M.—Communications in Masonic hall on first and third Thursdays of each month. H. M. Baldwin, worshipful master; W. E. Fuller, secretary.

Nemaha Chapter, No. 32, R. A. M.—Convocations first and third Tuesdays in Masonic hall. Herbert E. Jenkins, high priest; R. M. Emery, Jr., secretary.

Seneca Commandery, No. 41, Knights Templar—Conclaves second and fourth Wednesdays in Masonic hall. Edwin Buehler, exchequer; W. G. Rucker, recorder.

Iris Chapter No. 357 O. E. S.—Meets every second and fourth Friday evenings of each month in the A. O. U. W. hall. Visitors welcome. Mrs. Jane Emery, worshipful master; Dora Adriance, secretary.

## ODD FELLOWS.

Nemaha Lodge No. 19, I. O. O. F.—Meets every Monday night in I. O. O. F. hall, Seneca. C. M. Newton, noble grand; J. T. Campbell, secretary.

## KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

Nemaha Lodge No. 99, K. of P.—Meets every Thursday evening in I. O. O. F. hall. Frank Larew, chancellor commander; Clarence Smalley, K. R. S.

## KNIGHTS AND LADIES OF SECURITY.

Seneca Council, No. 193, K. & L. S.—Meets the second and fourth Friday each month in I. O. O. F. hall. R. D. McCliman, president; Mrs. E. M. Collins, secretary.

## MODERN WOODMEN.

Seneca Camp No. 644—Meets every second and fourth Tuesdays in each month in I. O. O. F. hall. J. E. White, venerable consul; Frank Larew, clerk.

## ROYAL NEIGHBORS.

Nemaha Valley Camp No. 944—Meets first Friday evening of each month in I. O. O. F. hall. Social meeting every third Friday evening. Mrs. C. A. Japhet, oracle; Mrs. Florence Wheeler, recorder.

## ANCIENT ORDER OF UNITED WORKMEN.

Seneca Lodge No. 60—Meets first, third and fifth Tuesdays in each month, in their hall. Charles Carman, most worthy; W. B. Murphy, recorder.



## DEGREE OF HONOR.

Meets in A. O. U. W. hall the second and fourth Tuesday evenings of each month. Mrs. Edna M. Ralph, C. of H.; Mrs. Myrtle Iles, recorder.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Seneca Fire Department—Meets last Monday in each month. Ira K. Wells, chief; C. J. Smalley, secretary.

## C. M. B. A.

The C. M. B. A., St. Charles Branch No. 21.—Meets first and third Thursday of each month in the A. O. U. W. hall. Peter P. Stein, president; Henry Gudenkauf, recording secretary.

Willis M. Slosson was master, John F. Corwin, senior warden, and J. E. Black, junior warden of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Sabetha Lodge No. 162, at its organization in 1875. Nineteen members were included in the original roster, of whom D. D. Wickins and H. C. Haines are still members and residents of the town.

Sabetha Lodge, or the Central City Lodge, as it was called, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, No. 125, was organized the same year, with J. E. Moon, noble grand, and W. F. Robbins as secretary.

Twenty-four men organized the Knights of Pythias lodge in 1880 with David D. Wickins and T. K. Masheter as financial reporter, both of whom are still residents of Sabetha. N. S. Smith and Fred Ukele were original members who are now residents of the town.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union was organized in 1878. Mrs. David Wickins and Mrs. Dr. Slosson are now members of the organization, who were charter members.

Masons, Fritz Herrmann, worshipful master; Order of the Eastern Star, Mrs. George A. Allen, Jr., worshipful master; Modern Woodmen of America, A. R. Wittwer, venerable consul; Royal Neighbors, Mrs. Halla Oylear, oracle; Knights and Ladies of Security, Dr. B. W. Conrad, president; Royal Highlanders, A. G. Kemper, secretary-treasurer; Yeomen; Mrs. Laura L. Hook, correspondent; North American Union, John H. Judy, secretary; Central Protective Association, W. C. Schug, president; Free Department, Fritz Herrmann, president.

Centralia lodges include the Masonic, Eastern Star, Odd Fellows, Modern Woodmen, Royal Neighbors, Kansas Fraternal Citizens, Woodmen of the World, Ancient Order of United Workmen and Degree of Honor.

Goff lodges: Royal Neighbors, Mrs. Louise Henry, oracle; Miss Okeson, recorder; Mrs. D. W. Hunt, chaplain; Mrs. Ed Conover, past

oracle. Modern Woodmen: T. J. Cox, venerable consul; Nick Jacobs, worthy advisor; Frank Stringer, banker; W. C. Jesse, escort. Odd Fellows: W. E. Coffelt, noble grand; H. E. Hanley, vice grand; A. H. Fitzwater, secretary; B. A. Johnstone, treasurer. Rebekah lodge: Mrs. F. J. Cox, noble grand; Mrs. Besse Eckard, vice grand; Mrs. E. C. Maher, second vice grand; Mrs. Nick Henry, treasurer.

The lodges at Corning are the Ancient Order of United Workmen, Odd Fellows, Masons, Modern Woodmen and Knights and Ladies of Security.

Oneida lodges: Knights and Ladies of Security, Raymond Funkhouser, president; Mrs. J. F. McCarty, vice president; Claud Funkhouser, secretary; Mrs. C. H. Bell, financier. Masonic, S. S. Stevenson, worshipful master; O. L. Coleman, senior deacon; W. H. Moore, junior deacon; Roy Smothers, secretary. Odd Fellows: Claud Anderson, noble grand; Ernest Moser, vice grand; Harvey Barndt, chaplain; Roscoe Benedict, warden; J. J. Russell, secretary; Henry Wikoff, treasurer. The Modern Woodmen is another of Oneida's active lodges.

Bern lodges: Ancient Order of United Workmen, Bern Lodge No. 319, J. J. Koehler, most worthy; D. D. Cunningham, secretary. Sunlight Lodge, Knights of Pythias: D. D. Cunningham, C. G.; A. J. Clyman, K. R. and S. Turnverein: Jacob Spring, president; Charles Cassman, secretary.

Wetmore lodges: Wetmore Lodge No. 53, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, A. Philip Lapham, worshipful master; Claude J. Wood, secretary. This lodge was first organized at Granada and known as Granada Lodge No. 53; was then moved to Capioma, where it remained about a year, and was then moved to Wetmore and its name changed. Wetmore Chapter No. 212 Order of Eastern Star. Mrs. Lillie A. Achten, worshipful master; Miss Lorena J. Mell, secretary. Wetmore Lodge No. 289, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Charles Cooley, noble grand; Lee Adamson, secretary. Wetmore Rebekah Lodge No. 326, Mrs. Charles Cooley, noble grand; Mrs. Anna Stolzenberger, secretary. Star of Hope Camp No. 1064 Royal Neighbors of America, Mrs. Alice M. Turrentine, oracle; Mrs. M. Maude Stever, secretary. Wetmore Camp No. 1515 Modern Woodmen of America, C. C. Gilbert, vice commander; Robert Rion, clerk. Wetmore Council No. 273 Knights and Ladies of Security, Charles W. Hendershot, president; Mrs. Bessie Ruhlen, secretary.

## CLUBS AND SOCIAL GATHERINGS.

Nemaha county is rather remarkable in the number of its clubs that have stayed under a loosely woven scarf of original weaving for over a period of years.

In Seneca was formed a library and literary association, as far back as 1864. After a few months' interest, it lagged. Again it was re-

vived. Periodical backslidings have occurred, but, today, after more or less slips and regaining of foothold, a circulating of library books individually owned, exists in Seneca, the undoubted offspring of the original library association.

In Seneca, about ten years ago, Mrs. C. C. K. Scoville, notable for her variety and brilliance of achievements, organized a sextet of girl singers called the Mary Lincoln sextet. Mrs. Scoville is the wife of the Seneca banker and mother-in-law of Lieut. Walter de Mumm, whose achievements in the European war have attracted attention during the current year. Mrs. Scoville was named by President Lincoln on the occasion of a speechmaking visit to the town of her nativity. Mrs. Scoville remembers the martyred president. She was born in Galesburg, Ill. Her father, George I. Bergen, held a Government position. Mrs. Scoville recalls that when she was a little girl, Mr. Lincoln came to Galesburg to deliver a speech. It was the first time he ran for the presidency. George Bergen and Abraham Lincoln were friends. A great procession was arranged in Mr. Lincoln's honor, and the daughter of George Bergen rode in the carriage with Lincoln. As the crowds cheered, the child stood up in the carriage and added her cheers for Lincoln. He was greatly amused and pleased at the little girl's demonstration and lifted her to his knee, and gave her the name of Mary Lincoln. Mrs. Lincoln's maiden name was Mary Todd. She was employed as a seamstress in the family of George I. Bergen. Mrs. Scoville has in her possession letters written her father by Lincoln, Grant and Yates, the war governor of Illinois. The Mary Lincoln sextette of Seneca was named in honor of this event for Mrs. Scoville. It was composed of girls whose fresh young voices were carefully selected and admirably suited. Mrs. Scoville chaperoned them to neighboring towns for concerts until their fame became widespread. The sextette was disorganized by the inroads of matrimony.

Since its earliest day, Nemaha county has been notably musical with many residents who have won laurels in far away places through their music. Among these was the late Will Stevenson who lived in Oneida, midway between Seneca and Sabetha, and was the moving spirit in musical affairs in all three of the communities. Today, years after his death, the beauty of his voice and the superiority of his productions are so uniformly admired that his compositions are reproduced in memory of him. Most of Gilbert & Sullivan's popular operas have been produced in Nemaha county by the choral union. One of Mr. Stevenson's great successes was "The Haymakers." It was reproduced shortly afterward by signed request of most of the citizens of Sabetha as a benefit performance for Billy Williams, a local citizen who had been seriously injured. The play was taken to neighboring towns, and twenty years afterward, was reproduced, some of the parts being played by the children of the original company. The Billie Williams production resulted in a net donation to him of over \$70.

Hiawatha people had come over to see the original production. It was so good that they induced the company to go over there and give the operetta for the benefit of the Hiawatha library. They went and were given a reception in the library rooms, then located over the bank diagonally across from the postoffice. Seneca came after them for a performance at the county seat. A Seneca paper said that the performance demonstrated that people could be fine business men and women and artists at the same time. Among the members of the organization at that time who took part in the opera, were C. L. Sherwood, who was business manager as well as a member of the musical company. E. Holzshue sang the boatswain in "Pinafore." Miss Ida Robbins, now Mrs. Graham of Pomona, Cal., was the prima donna. Miss Bird Riffer was Little Buttercup. Sid West was the fascinating Ralph Rackshaw and Dr. Roberts, the captain. Joe Stevenson was stage manager, and Will Stevenson, Dick Deadeye. Will Storm played the clarinet in the orchestra, and a violinist named Mutter was transported from Leavenworth. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Waller were Hebe and Sir Joseph.

Sabetha gave "Erminie" too with Robert Bresse as the marquis, and Mrs. Hogbin as Erminie. The two robbers, for whom the dicky birds were always calling, were Freel Corwin and Will Storm. Harry Gravatte staged the piece and Will Stevenson directed. This was given by the Congregational Church. Most of the performances at that time were given by the choral union. The fine musical library at the public library is a result of the choral union's efforts and the interest which accumulated on their moneys from the time of their disorganization.

Within the current year, The Sabetha Amateur Music Club has brought artists of world-wide fame to the town of 2,000 inhabitants, including Madame Maud Powell, the world's greatest woman violinist; Fabbrini, the great pianist, and Marguerite Dunlap, the singer. The venture was a great success. No other community so small is known to have attempted such a thing solely through a woman's club. The organization has forty-five members, some of whom have more than local fame as musicians, notably Mrs. S. Murdock, Miss Minnie Stalder, Mrs. W. A. Carlyle and Miss Mary Pace.

A society that probably would take a State prize for continuous and uninterrupted fortnightly meetings for pleasure purposes, only, for over a quarter of a century is the Sabetha Evening Whist Club. The venerable whist club has been meeting for thirty years. Members and their children and their children's children are now members of the same organization, and have been for several years. Sweets are saved from the midnight supper served, to take home to grandchildren of charter members. The club was organized when the old-fashioned "drive" whist was the rage. Neither fashion nor pleas of the newer members will push the originators from drive whist of two hands at a



## (II.)

## NEMAHA COUNTY OLD SETTLERS.

1 and 7, J. E. Taylor and Wife. 2 and 3, Mr. and Mrs. John Sly. 4, Mrs. Fuller. 5 and 6, E. J. Emery and Wife. 8 and 9, J. H. Peckham and Wife. 10, Mrs. Ballard. 11 and 12, Thomas Bronaugh and Wife. 13, J. P. Taylor. 14 and 15, Mr. and Mrs. William Broxtermann. 16 and 17, Dr. D. B. McKay and Wife. 18, Jacob McGehee. 19, Mrs. Kelley. 20 and 21, Peter McQuaid and Wife. 22 and 23, Mr. and Mrs. James Graney. 24, P. H. Stirk. 25, Marsh Burger. 26, Ed. Caspy. 27, James Gregg. 28, Joshua Sams. 29 and 30, J. P. Cone and wife.



game, to four, game whist, duplicate, bridge or auction, all of which have been the fashion since the organization of the Sabetha Whist Club.

Seven years, or more, ago appeared the following story of a Whist Club anniversary:

The charter members of the Whist Club surprised Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Sherwood in celebration of their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Lon Hook, Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Haynes, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bressem, Mr. and Mrs. George A. Guild, Mr. and Mrs. E. Holtzchue and Dr. Roberts are the charter members, besides Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood. Mrs. Hook and Mrs. Sherwood were president and secretary from the formation of the club twenty years ago until last year. Mrs. Cotton has always been treasurer of the club. There never has been a cent of money in the treasury during the entire twenty years of its existence. A standing joke of the president has been to call for the treasurer's report at every meeting fortnightly for twenty years. Mrs. Charlie Haines and Mrs. Sam Murdock are the present president and secretary. The duties of these officers seem to be no more arduous than those of the treasurer. Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Haines are also charter members, but were unable to attend the Sherwood surprise. The club guests at the party presented Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood with a handsome set of solid silver knives and forks. The "bride and groom" were so genuinely surprised that it almost required restoratives to bring them around. The husbands attend regularly and enjoy it. Are any other thirty year husbands as faithful?

The county gathering of longest standing, most faithful attendance and unvarying success was the annual picnic held for fifty years at Magill's grove near Capioma and Woodlawn in the southwestern corner of the county. Samuel Magill, with his three brothers, who were pioneer settlers of this district, arriving in 1856 and 1857, inaugurated the picnic in his grove of walnut trees in 1860. Trees were few in those days except along the creek. The walnut grove of Samuel Magill was famous. Its lumber now is made into handsome furniture filling the castles and palaces of England, but still the beauty of the woods seems undisturbed.

In this forest primeval, for nearly fifty years annually, gathered, until the year of his death, Mr. Magill's friends, acquaintances and all folk from surrounding communities who knew Woodlawn or Capioma. The grove itself is historic in that Samuel Magill preempted the land in 1855, and owned it to the time of his death with the parchment deed to the land signed by Abraham Lincoln. The grove when the first picnic was held was practically the only timber in the vicinity. There are now fifty-five acres of timberland, from which, in the late years of his life, Mr. Magill shipped thousands of feet of massive walnut trees to England. Mr. Magill retired from active farming, for years prior to his death six years ago, but to the last meeting he attended the annual picnic. When the picnic started in the pioneer days, the picnickers



numbered but a few early settlers, who had preempted their farms, worked early and late against the odds which assail the pioneer, with this annual celebration their only pleasure. For this day troubles were laid aside, hardships forgotten and homesickness banished in the warm, human communication, with gospel hymns and good eating the sole amusement.

Every year the crowd increased until five neighborhood Sunday schools and at least two towns were represented: Granada, Capioma, Comet, Bethany and Woodlawn, besides all the surrounding countryside and the thriving towns of Wetmore and Sabetha. The crowds frequently numbered several thousand. There was to have been speaking before dinner, but, of course, there was none. The speaker never arrives until dinner is spread. The mothers gather on the rough, temporary board benches and discuss household affairs while watching the arrivals. The fathers gather near their own rigs in knots of five and six, where they discuss their corn prospects, tell of their fine wheat crop and wonder when Charley Jordan is ever going to get around with the threshing outfit; and why on earth Jack Dyche ever wanted to sell out his fine farm here in God's country, and move away out to Nebraska.

The children hang around and watch closely two embryo financiers, Clyde Buck and Ed Stalcup, put up their ice cream and soda pop stands. Things drag along. Noon arrives and no speaker. Finally the Woodlawn Sunday school superintendent gets up on the impromptu platform, flanked on one side by an American flag, and on the other by the church cabinet organ, and announces that the speaker not having come, the first thing on the program will be dinner. Shouts of applause follow this short speech. Matters begin to move. Fathers get baskets from under the buggy seats, boys bring buckets of water from the spring and mothers begin to squeeze lemons. The children hop around in everyone's way, sneaking bites from anyone's table. The picnic is fairly on. Married children, with their tots, gather at the family table cloth with grandmas and grandpas, together with a dozen intimate friends. Some few who live in far parts of the district make the picnic dinner their annual feasting together. Of course there is a hundred times too much to eat at every table, although everyone eats and eats and eats.

Dinner over and cleared away, another pause comes. The speaker arrived in time to get his share of the food. Little by little, the older ones gather on the benches fronting the platform. Sweethearts saunter off to find a grapevine swing; the children scamper off to wade in the creek; the older boys rush off into Pettit's pasture for the annual baseball struggle between those old enemies, Granada and Capioma. The superintendent of the Sunday school again gets on the platform. He makes a plea for a choir. No one moves. He beseeches our excellent singers not to be bashful. He wants representatives from every



choir present. Still a motionless audience. "Well, well," he says, "I do not want to sing all these hymns as solos." Giggles followed by the rising of the faithful Capioma choir leader, who started the music with a tuning fork some forty odd years ago. This brave man is backed by three brave girls, and the procession to the dozen straight-backed kitchen chairs on the platform begins. Half the singers are then obliged to return to their seats on the benches. The program begins with No. 177. The organ wheezes out the little verse all the way through, the last chord dying entirely out as the organist ceases to pump. The original chorister leads off. The voices straggle in one after the other until the chorus is reached, when the audience takes it up. This hymn is followed by another. Then some local elocutionist recites. Another chorus, followed by a second flight of oratory, and so on, heartily applauded by the neighbors and admirers of the reciter. The climax comes when fourteen perspiring, excited little boys and girls, draped in bright blue tissue paper sashes and crowned by triple pointed, gilded pasteboard crowns, are gathered together, by their faithful trainer, Mrs. Stauffer, and coralled on the platform for the flag drill. They weave in and out and wave their flags and mix up and unmix, forming a final glorious tableau, by kneeling with their flags carefully stuck in each other's eyes. This part of the program is given an encore, and is repeated.

Then, at last, the speaker gets in his work. Mothers sneak off to relieve their children of their drill finery. The speaker shouts patriotism at a few fathers for half an hour, and the day's program is finished. Fathers go to hitch up; mothers gather up baskets; older children hunt up the little ones; the last call for ice cream is made, going at five cents a dish, and Magill's picnic is over. This has been the program for nearly half a century. Can any other community claim such faithfulness?

## CHAPTER XXX.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

CALAMITIES—GREAT DROUTH OF 1860—GRASSHOPPER VISITATION—THE CYCLONE OF 1896—JOHN P. CONE'S EXPERIENCE—INDIAN MASSACRE OF ARGONAUTS—AN EXCITING BUFFALO HUNT—REMINISCENCES OF ALFRED STOKES—THE ORPHAN POPULATION—THE COUNTY HOSPITAL.

Of the big calamities of lesser renowned happenings of Nemaha county the drought of the sixties, the grasshoppers of the seventies and the tornado of 1896, are the most important. The exact dates of the drouth and grasshopper era is frequently disputed as is most matter of historical worth handed down by verbal recitation. The big drouth is generally conceded to have occurred in 1860. There are scores of stories in connection with it. J. T. Brady who recently died in Pomona, Cal., tells a good one. Mr. Brady helped in the foundation of two towns, Sabetha and Albany, and to his life's end divided his affection equally between them. He was one of the builders of Sabetha, and thirty years ago went to Pomona, Cal., which he helped to build as he had Sabetha. Many Nemaha county folk followed him there.

Fred and Charlie Graham, Colonel White, Mrs. F. E. Bouton, her daughter, Miss May, Mrs. Edwin Slosson, Mr. and Mrs. William Lawrence, who have been prominent in Nemaha county for years, were seized with the California fever, gathered at Pomona, built and settled there. Mr. Brady was a connection of Ira Collins matrimonially and the two were in business together in Sabetha's early days. Mr. Collins wandered from the fold for a few years, but is again in Nemaha county.

#### THE GREAT DROUTH OF 1860.

Mr. Brady recalls the drouth as follows: The pumpkin is a sort of "incidental" now on the food scale, and a feature of Hallowe'en parties, but back in 1860, when the hot winds turned Kansas into a scorched plain, the now forgotten and unsung "punkin" was the whole show. John T. Brady told a story of that famous drouth in 1860. He and William Collins had come from Illinois the year before. They had started for Pike's Peak, which at that time was the Mecca of all wanderers. They met a bunch of returning emigrants near Sabetha, and the hard luck stories determined them to cast their fortunes in Kansas. They took a

claim near the present townsite of Sabetha. After putting in a crop in the spring of 1860 they decided to go on to Pike's Peak anyway. They remained until fall and then came back to their claim. The country was burned to a crisp. The corn was twisted like burned bacon. The grass was bleached and dead. The whole country, which only a few months before had promised abundant harvest, had been turned into a profitless waste. The bare ground looked as if it had been seared by a furnace. Nothing was raised. Brady and Collins began to look around. They knew a man named Bierly Job, close by, and called on him. They found he had a tremendous crop of pumpkins. The pumpkins had been planted in the corn, as the old fashioned farmers used to do. The corn had been killed but the pumpkins refused to suffer a like fate. The hotter the weather got, the faster grew the pumpkins. Pumpkins filled the furrows and the vines covered the hills and continued to bring forth more and more. The crop was something wonderful to behold. When anybody got hungry he came and carried off a load of Job's pumpkins. Nothing else had been raised and pumpkins were served for soup, for meat, and in pie for dessert. People ate pumpkins till they turned yellow. That crop made history and saved many a belt from being drawn into unaccustomed notches.

#### GRASSHOPPER VISITATION.

The grasshopper year was in 1873. It hit Nemaha county as thoroughly as any other section, and tales are rampant of sufferers who had their clothes fairly eaten off their backs. The grasshopper year is always referred to as if it were a calamity that visited Kansas alone, as if Kansas bore and bred the omnivorous insects, and then refused to let any other State have a sight of them. The truth of the matter is that the famous grasshoppers came from Colorado. Kansas had nothing to do with their origin whatever, and merely fed them her crops as they blew over the State into Missouri and Iowa. But Kansas is a good advertiser, and always has been since her forefathers left New York, New England and Pennsylvania and started for the West with the motto "Kansas or Bust" on the covers of their mover wagons. Therefore when Kansas drew the grasshoppers, Kansas advertised the fact, knowing that it was better for her business to be discussed any old way rather than not to be discussed at all. And it is the same today. Iowa was having primaries, and insurging and things last week, too, but no one paid any attention to Iowa. The eyes of the entire country were on Kansas. And "as Kansas went, so goes the country" is Kansas' new slogan.

In the historic year of the grasshoppers, Roy Hesseltine was a boy, and later president of the Citizens State Bank of Sabetha. The thing that impressed him most was the excitement among the turkeys when the grasshoppers darkened the sky in their countless numbers. The turkeys were for a moment staggered by the spectacle of so much food in sight. Then they "lit" into the grasshoppers and ate, and ate, and ate.

Mr. Hesseltine says he saw turkeys eat grasshoppers until they couldn't get any more down, then stand with their mouths open. Occasionally the grasshopper would take advantage of the gobbler's "open season" and would kick itself out and escape. The turkeys would start early in the morning with a rush, bent on transacting business all day, but about one o'clock they would be full to the throat, and would squat down and remain there the balance of the day, picking only grasshoppers which they could reach from a reclining position. The turkeys were the only beneficiaries of the grasshopper year.

### THE CYCLONE OF 1896.

But the cyclone was more of a personal matter with Nemaha county. To be sure a portion of the northeastern section of the State shared in it to an extent, yet it was not a State-wide event, if disastrous enough for one. The cyclone occurred on the evening of May 17, 1896. The storm originated in Miltonvale, Cloud county, Kansas, and swept through Washington, Marshall, Nemaha and Brown counties, Kansas, and Richardson county, Nebraska, to Preston on the Missouri river. At times the tornado would break up into several tornadoes and in Nemaha county, several communities were simultaneously damaged by twisters. The first place where extensive damage was done was at Barnes out in Washington county. Then the tornado hit Frankfort in Marshall county, then Baileyville in Nemaha county, then at Seneca. Five were killed at Seneca, five were killed at Reserve, four at Sabetha, five at Oneida, three at Morrill and four in Richardson county. The funnel cloud which wrecked Sabetha formed over Price station. The storm then seemed to have hesitated and gathered its forces for the descent on Pony Creek and east Pennsylvania avenue. From there it passed on to Reserve and into Nebraska. It was the worst storm the county has ever known since its organization. There was not a business building and very few houses left undamaged in Sabetha. The damage of the storm financially was estimated at one million dollars, of which over \$700,000 was Nemaha county's loss.

"Cyclone stories" in a stricken community are of unfailing interest and when the bitterness and sorrow have been a little obliterated by the passage of time, they become sometimes amusing. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Magill's home in Seneca was completely demolished in the tornado of 1896. Mr. Hartner, of the same locality, lived half a mile from the Magill home. A family picture of the Hartner family and family group of the Magill family were carried with the wreckage of their two homes above the clouds to a distance of sixty miles and were found in the same cornfield by a farmer who was cultivating and did not know there had been a storm. The farmer carried the two pictures into the home of a neighbor, a Mrs. Plummer. She recognized the picture of the Magill family and said the pictures must have come from Seneca. Later they

heard of the terrific storm, and the destruction in its wake, and they returned the pictures to the Magill family. There had been no storm at all at Falls City, Neb., or near there, only a distance of twelve or fifteen miles from Reserve, one of the towns destroyed. The pictures must have been carried entirely above the rainclouds as they were not even damp. Only one corner of the picture was torn. Mrs. Magill framed it and it still decorates their home and is in as good condition as if it had never taken so mad an air ride. In the picture are the following Seneca people: Mr. and Mrs. Abijah Wells, Mr. and Mrs. David Magill, Mrs. Captain Williams and daughter.

Another story of the tornado that is amusing is the saving of the Magill piano. The piano was found upon a pinnacle of wreckage, uninjured except for the fact that a board had blown completely through the piano, entering one side through the hard wood and going out the opposite side, without injuring the works of the instrument. The clock was the only thing absolutely uninjured. The clock was left standing on a pile of wood. It was ticking and had not lost a second's time through the frightful storm. When Mr. Magill and his family issued from the cellar of a neighbor's house, his clock greeted him by chiming out the correct hour.

#### JOHN P. CONE, FIRST EDITOR, WRITES OF EARLY EXPERIENCES

Issued First Copy the Seneca "Courier" Fifty Years Ago—Some Early Seneca History—The Changes of Time.

As preliminary to what the writer may here state, he wishes to refer to first impressions. His first introduction to Seneca and the valley of the Nemaha, leading north into Nebraska, was in the late summer of 1862. There were two of us, residents at that time of Marshall county, and having a couple of Indian ponies we wished to break to the saddle and a day or two of idle time on our hands, we left Marysville one Sunday forenoon, took in a camp meeting on the Vermillion creek and from there went across the prairies to Seneca and north to near the Nebraska line, where we stopped with Dr. Edwards, a very genial old gentleman, over night. There were small and very scattering improvements along the valley and we met very few settlers but the road, or path rather, was an easy grade, the foliage and landscape fine, indicating productive soil and compared with anything we had seen on that or previous trips. We pronounced the valley a gem in the rough, an Eden spot of Kansas, and were, therefore, as we returned to Marshall, in a mood to sing in the language of the old hymn: "Every prospect pleases and only man is vile."

Something over a year after the date mentioned above, or in October, 1863, the writer came to Seneca with the view of starting a newspaper. Inducements were offered and aspirations stimulated that Seneca

and Nemaha county could support and should have a newspaper. Accordingly teams were sent to Atchison county and a press and complete outfit brought to Seneca and on the fourteenth day of November, 1863, the first paper in the county made its appearance—a six column four page paper, the Nemaha "Courier." Many predictions were made as to the success or failure (more of the latter) of the enterprise. The town was an infant, there was one brick business house on Main street occupied by Lappin & Scrafford as a general store, (now the Mason & Woltkamp furniture store.) The block east had a few wooden buildings and J. H. Peckham was doing a tin and hardware business in one of them, and a blacksmith shop on the east side of that block. On the next block east was the stone building now standing, considerably remodeled and then occupied by Bolivar Schofield's general store. On the south side, and corner where August Kramer now is, was John E. Smith's hotel and station for the overland stage travel. West were several small buildings occupied by furniture, general trade, saloon, restaurant or any transient line that might come along. Dr. McKay ran a drug store on the north side about where the Steam Bakery now is. The old double log house celebrated in song and story and which has a history in itself as first house, hotel, store, residence, etc., was still standing about where the Scoville buildings now are and was occupied by Albert Clarke and family. The block across the street south of where the post office now is, had one building near its center, the residence of Samuel Lappin. There were probably about two dozen business men and firms in town, all told. And while there was a pretty generous subscription list started by some subscribers paying for from three to five annual subscriptions for the paper to be sent to friends in the East, the local advertising and job work was light. The county printing was increasing and instead of its being sent away to the river papers, was now kept at home. Then, too, by persistent hammering and soliciting the paper soon filled up with advertisements from St. Joseph, Atchison and Leavenworth merchants. A new field was opened to the business men of the river towns and they took occasion to cultivate it.

The home office of the "Courier" was in the rear room of the Mason & Woltkamp building before referred to. Byron Sherry's law office was in front. The press was a fine old Foster make and is now installed in the State Historical rooms in Topeka for preservation and for the good it has done.

The first roller boy or original "devil" of the office was George W. Williams, of Seneca. Typesetting machines were unheard of in that day and one of the first printers who was employed to assist in placing in columns the "mute metallic messengers of thought," was Theodore Alvord, who responded to a call on a \$5.50 stage ticket from Atchison. A great many lively reminiscences could be given of the printers and workmen who rolled into and out of town in the next few succeeding years. They were a restless and venturesome lot that traveled the road in those days

and Nemaha had one lone office where they might apply for a "sit." Almost every article fit to eat or wear by man or beast was taken on subscription in those days. A pair of longlegged leather boots were early handed in by a local shoemaker for the editor and he put them on and "waded in." They proved a most serviceable pair. In December, 1865, the "Courier" was designated by the Secretary of State, W. F. Seward, as one of the two papers in Kansas to publish the United States laws passed by the United States that session of Congress. A new Gordon job press and many substantial improvements were added to the office, followed by a frame one story office built on the corner where the First National Bank now stands. Most of the material was sawed in Atchison from native lumber and shipped by the Central Branch railway to Centralia and hauled to Seneca by H. D. Hornbeck, the Seneca freighter of those days. Centralia then and for some years after was our nearest railroad point. The paper remained in its new home until the early seventies.

A word now as to the early organization of the town. One Ingersoll and another man from Doniphan county are said to have located the town of Rock Castle, where Seneca now stands, in the winter of 1856 to 1857, and the double log house, so often referred to, was put up the succeeding spring. Pocket knife engraving had indelibly placed the name Rock Castle on one of the logs. Not long after Royal U. Torrey, Samuel Lappin and his father, Finley Lappin, and Charles G. Scrafford, the last two arriving later, bought or took the townsite and became active in building a town and upon the suggestion of the elder Lappin, the name was changed to Seneca. This name was familiar to Lappin senior, it has been said, from a town of the same name in his native State of Ohio.

In these chronicles relating principally to the town, should not be forgotten the men and families who came to Nemaha and were "squattling" along the creeks and branches near by and who founded some of the fine farms we see today. The idea largely prevailed then, that land worth taking up should be on a creek or low ground, that the prairies would never produce or sustain anything more than a few Indians and jack rabbits. As early as 1855, 1856 and 1857, there were the following settlers contiguous to Seneca, viz: "Elias Church, John S. Doyle, L. J. McGowen, Joseph W. Dennis, on the east side of the Nemaha and his father, Batson Dennis, on the west side, William Berry, on the east, and Jesse Dennis, on the west. W. W. Lilley on the east and E. N. Hanks on the west, Thomas Morgan on the east, and Elias Huff on the west, Thos. Carter, William R. Wells, John F. Long, William Houston on the east, and on Illinois Creek, Alonza Whitmore, Jeremiah Barnes, John Roots and George F. Roots." On the north and east of town were Lauhams, Newtons, the Johnsons, Williams, Bonine, Carlins, Steinmeirs, and many others of the tillers and toilers who could be depended upon, upon whatever occasion called them out.

Indian scares and rumpuses were somewhat common then. Small bands of the Otoes in visiting their brothers south took the Nemaha route, and while peaceable except when filled with fire water, they were not particularly agreeable as permanent residents. The savage raid by those farther west in 1864, when the Nemaha Home Guards were called out, would form a chapter of reminiscences of itself.

And this is a glimpse of Seneca and Nemaha fifty years ago when it was struggling for the "Stars Through Difficulties." Kansas was the battlefield of ideas, the struggle was sharply on and defiance and death were dealing fearful blows. The heart beats and throes of the time were awakening every dormant energy. The immortal Lincoln's guiding hand was at the helm of State, and Kansas and Nemaha were loyal to the faith.

"What anvils rang, what hammers beat,  
In what a forge and what a heat,  
We shaped the anchors of thy hope."

"The Bison Kansas Bee" of Rush county, deep in the solitude of the "Great American Desert," sums up the progress of fifty years as follows: "Only fifty years from ox-team to automobile, from forded streams to concrete bridges. Only fifty years from buffalo grass to alfalfa, from unplowed fields, pounded by hoofs for a thousand years, to the mellow soil of varied crops. Only fifty years from bisons to shorthorns, from the wandering tribes to the contented families. The plodding pace of Buck and Berry" and the gliding 1913 model, affords no greater contrast than that which obtains in all lines in Kansas. It's only fifty years from inebriety to sobriety, from Kansas drunk to Kansas sober; only fifty years from the wagon trail to the iron rail. Only fifty years from "buffalo chips" to natural gas. Only fifty years old, yet one State alone has more money on deposit than Kansas. Fifty years ago only an occasional letter; today the rural carrier visits nearly every farm house. Telephones, rural carriers and good roads make neighbors closer than formerly when a block apart. Kansas, the commonwealth, has had her infancy and her ripened age, in less than the lifetime of one generation. 'Better fifty years of Kansas than a cyclone of Cathay.'"

#### INDIAN MASSACRE OF ARGONAUTS.

T. H. Edgar told a thrilling story of pioneer days in this vicinity. Mr. Edgar had four brothers and a cousin who took the old Sante Fe trail for California in search of gold. They were fortunate in their quest and started to their home in the East with saddle bags filled with the precious gold dust. It was estimated that in all the return party had \$100,000 in gold dust. Each of the Edgar boys and the cousin, whose name was Burner, had \$20,000 and a pony. Near Fort Leavenworth the overland party was surprised by Indians, and most of the band was mas-



sacred. One brother of the Edgar boys and Burner survived. The two managed to keep hold of their saddle bags in the fray, and escaped. Supplies were abandoned, and in hiding out from place to place they became so exhausted they could carry the gold dust no farther, so they decided to cache it. A large gray rock along the trail was selected as a likely spot. An abandoned wolf hole was found under the stone and the gold was buried there. They reached the fort, and after four days' rest returned to the spot where the gold had been buried, accompanied by a company. They found the place where the raid had been, found the burned wagons, but no trace of men or horses was left. They searched for the gray stone, but it was not found. Nor could any familiar spot be discovered. Late in the fall, after continued search, they returned again to Fort Leavenworth. They reached their Illinois home penniless. An Illinois company was formed to search for the gold, with no better result. Twenty years later another quest was made, but the gold dust is still buried somewhere beneath the old California trail in Nemaha or Brown county.

### AN EXCITING BUFFALO HUNT.

William B. Slosson used to tell of an exciting buffalo hunt which resulted from an Indian scare in the early sixties. All the men of the county practically had gone to war. Mr. Slosson had been wounded in the knee and was at home recuperating. Shortly before his return to the front word was received that Indians were attacking the residents of Marshall county adjoining Nemaha on the west. A rally was made at Seneca. Rev. G. C. Rice and Elihu Whittenhall, elderly men, made a house-to-house visit among the scattered settlers to inform them where the rendezvous was to be. The women sat up all night cooking. In the morning, Byron Sherry, a Seneca attorney, was made commander of the impromptu brigade, numbering about 400 boys and old men, and the brigade started after the Indians. As they approached the scene of the raid, cabins were found in smoking ashes and the Indians had fled.

As the party came over the hill, overlooking the Blue river valley, their hearts fairly stopped beating to behold in the valley beneath them a solid mass of tens of thousands of buffalo, peacefully feeding. There were acres and acres, solid miles, in fact, of buffalo. The buffalo sniffed the foreign invaders and started to move. The Indian hunters dashed after them. Mr. Slosson shot one buffalo and he veered out from the herd. Mr. Slosson was riding a blooded horse, which became excited with the chase and dashed after the buffalo. They caught up with the wounded animal, when he turned to lunge at them, but the skillful horse stepped aside and the animal lunged forward. Several shots and similar maneuvers finally conquered the king of the plains. He was skinned, and the fresh meat served the amateur soldiers many good meals.

In the beginning of the buffalo raid, Byron Sherry cried, "Boys,

let's surround them." This became a byword, and many years afterward, when Mr. Sherry was making a political speech as candidate for congress, someone in the audience cried out, "Boys, let's surround them." It raised such a roar of laughter that the speech was useless, and Mr. Sherry lost the nomination. Mr. Sherry became a lawyer in Kansas City later.

### REMINISCENCES BY ALFRED STOKES.

Alfred Stokes, of Sabetha, was one of twenty-two persons who arrived in Sabetha in 1872, from Binghamton, N. Y., to seek their fortunes. There was Mr. Stokes and family, John Stevens and family and Garret Dietrich and family. Their intention was to take up homesteads. The nearest good land was found to be in Smith county. The men left their families and went to Smith county and took up land. Mr. Stokes came back to Sabetha after staking off land near the present site of Smith Center. He gave up the homestead, let it go back to the government. The farm is now worth \$100 an acre. Should he have kept it? Here is the answer. A few months after Mr. Stokes took up the claim he started from Sabetha to Smith county. The Grand Island road, when it touched Davenport, Neb., was the nearest road to the claim, seventy miles. Mr. Stokes started to walk from Davenport to the claim. He walked all day without seeing a sign of life except buffalo and wolves. At night he staggered into a building. He was back at Davenport on the Grand Island, which consisted of an old box car. He had been walking in a circle all day.

The next day he started out and made better progress. He came to a dugout. A settler had just lost his wife. Mr. Stokes asked for water. The settler showed him a stinking hole. Stokes knew why the wife had died. The next night, Mr. Stokes feared to lie down for fear wolves would devour him. He walked on in the night and saw a light. A woman was nursing a sick baby. Her husband was somewhere picking up buffalo bones to exchange at Wetmore, sixty miles away, for a pitiful little jag of groceries. After he had implored her to let him in, she did so, and he slept on the dirt floor, thankful for his life.

So it went. A few dugouts ten to twenty miles apart. Poverty everywhere. At another dugout a woman had just given birth to a baby. She had baked rye bread ahead in anticipation of the event. Her husband sold Stokes a loaf of bread. He sat down and ate it, then begged to buy more. The husband would not sell. Mr. Stokes cooked buffalo meat with buffalo chips. It was plenty tough.

There is nothing in this theory of wild game being so much better than any other kind. Mr. Stokes will take a good steak any time. Eventually he reached his claim. There was no town of Smith Center then. There was no living on the crops produced. It couldn't be done. It wasn't done for twenty years afterward. The hundred dollars an acre

homestead doesn't look so alluring, does it? Stevens and Dietrich moved their families from Sabetha to Smith county. Both men are dead. John Tyler died in Seattle. Mr. Stokes is the only head of a family still living. The reason he didn't move to Smith county was that the Grand Island owed him \$210 and couldn't pay it. They did him a favor. He doesn't think those years of pioneer hardships would have been worth the hundred dollars an acre.

## THE ORPHAN POPULATION

More than fifty orphan children, homeless from the vicissitudes of a city existence, have found a home, shelter and refuge in this county. The goodly people have given these not only a home, but in most cases the love and control of parents. Our first bevy of little ones, twenty-four in number, came ten years ago under the charge of Mr. Swan and Miss Hill, field agents of the Children's Aid Society of New York City.

Miss Hill is now the Kansas State agent, with headquarters at Topeka. Some of the innocents came from the Kansas Home of the Friendless. Of all this number there was but one defective child. The rule is less than one in twelve. The city orphans know nothing of farm life, and yet they make good upon the farms and almost every case of dissatisfaction of foster parent or child is found to be the interference of neighbors or servants.

The child's return to the foster parents in love, labor and usefulness more than justifies the expense, care and trouble. The responsibility of the child's life is carried by the organized societies and their representatives who govern their discipline and by advice and admonition assist in the guidance to a useful maturity of these children.

The remarkable success of these children proclaim that the rearing of the children is the greatest industry Nemaha county attempts. One of our most unpromising little ones has become the friend and associate of her foster mother. At eighteen she is little mother to two others. She has saved \$500 and is today a useful, helpful housekeeper.

Another has demonstrated scholarship to a marked degree and by competitive examination won a State scholarship in the big institutions of learning where she is finishing her education. This child was seventeen. She knows how to do housework, milk, husk corn and drive a team.

It has been one of the aims to place these children upon the farms in preference to other homes. Upon the farms they have the intimate association of their foster parents, their regular, steady work, the opportunities of the country school—the best in America today. Add to these the regular hours of sleep, the wholesome food of the farm table and the conditions for the rearing of the child become almost ideal.

The material affairs of the children are supervised by a local committee that are in truth the representatives of the institutions. The headquarters of the movement in the county has been at Sabetha, and of the

original committee, which consisted of George W. Hook, Ralph Tennal, Tom Pace, Roy Hesseltine, Grant Hazen and Will Guild, there remains active in the work Ralph Tennal and George Hook. These two have kept in close touch with their charges, and have urged upon both parents and children that maxim of good guardians of child life, "Don't see too much."

These supervisors are under lasting obligations to the newspapers of northeastern Kansas. These have, without money and without price, given most freely of their advertising columns, the reading space and their good will, and the children are blessed accordingly. The Sabetha "Herald," the Brown County "World," the Kansas "Democrat," Seneca "Tribune" and Troy "Chief" have each assisted cheerfully. May their blessings be accordingly.

The committee has found some royal helpers among the people, and among those have been Mrs. Henri Plattner who, by care, advice and material assistance, has found homes for many. To Irwin Hook and his gentlewife, whose home has at all times been open for the care and instruction of the children so unfortunate as to be waiting for new homes, much credit is due. Nemaha county has always cared for the orphans.

E. E. Crichley came to Kansas from England with a party of orphan children that were distributed here about thirty-six years ago. He was taken into the O. C. Bruner home in Seneca. He remained with the family, and is now with the Santa Fe railway people in the coach department in the shops at Topeka. Although only five years of age when he was taken, he recalls quite well the day and occasion of his assignment, and when at home recently went to the court house to see if he recognized anything about the place that was impressed upon his child mind on the occasion of his first visit. All trace of a brother taken by a Mr. Rosengarten has been lost, and nothing is known of him since the time he was in the employ of Jake Allen, who used to run the big livery barn on the vacant block in the rear of the Kramer hardware store, and which was destroyed by fire some twenty years ago.

### THE COUNTY HOSPITAL.

In the past few years in rich Nemaha county very few have wound their way "over the hill to the poorhouse." Thus it was called in 1869 when crops frequently failed and residents of "No Papoose" occasionally lost their grip. Then a county farm was secured for their care and sustenance, a mile and a half from Seneca. A stone building was erected sufficient to accommodate thirty people. The eighty acres surrounding it have frequently been self-supporting, and larger acreage, with fine timber and a picturesque stream, are included in the grounds now. But the new building is called the County Hospital, and that is what it amounts to.

The building is modern in every respect, furnace-heated, a water-

works system, two windows to all the rooms, four porcelain baths, and a home of comparative happiness and contentment to the dwellers therein. Under the management of Mr. and Mrs. John Pugh, who are now conducting the hospital, it is almost self-supporting and his "family" is well content. Sara Teasdale's words about "The Poorhouse,"

Hope went by and Peace went by  
And would not enter in;  
Youth went by and Health went by,  
And Love that is their Kin.

Gray Death saw the wretched house,  
And even he passed by;  
"They have never lived," he said,  
"They can wait to die."

are little suited to Nemaha county's Home for the Poor, where peace reigns with comfort and contentment.

Eighty windows glow in the western sun, and the glow they reflect is the glow reflected by the care and rest that is given the weary and the old within its walls.

## CHAPTER XXXI.

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### NEMAHA'S SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF RENOWN.

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DR. BENJAMIN L. MILLER—MRS. ETHEL HUSSEY—EX-GOV. W. J. BAILEY—  
E. G. STITT—MRS. NANNIE KUHLMAN—SENATOR W. H. THOMPSON—  
MRS. VIRGINIA GREEVER—WALT MASON—FREDERICK GATES—REV. A.  
G. LOHMAN—COL. H. BAKER—AND OTHERS.

Of the sons and daughters of Nemaha county, many have acquired fame, honor and riches bounded only by the nation and a few beyond this country's boundaries.

#### DR. BENJAMIN L. MILLER.

Benjamin L. Miller, born on the Rock creek farm of his father near the Nebraska State line, has just returned from an expedition in the countries of South America for the United States Government, examining mines and conditions there. He has the chair of geology in Lehigh University, and was given a leave of absence of a year and a half for the work. Upon his trip letters of his findings and travels were sent to his boyhood home and reproduced in home papers, in which he always retains his interest.

Dr. Miller's discoveries were told at a congress of scientists in Washington, D. C., and before the president. The week in the National capital was notably given over to him and his work.

#### MRS. ETHEL HUSSEY.

While there may be truth in the saying that "a prophet is not without honor save in his own country," yet it would seem that there are rare occasions when two prophets, hailing from the same country, may admire one another. Such seems to be the case of Dr. Edwin E. Slosson for his former countryman, Prof. W. J. Hussey. Dr. Slosson and his brilliant wife, May Preston Slosson, a poet with a name of her own, were boy and girl in Nemaha county about the time Ethel Fountain was a girl in the same vicinity. All were children of pioneer citizens of this community; Mrs. Slosson, of Centralia, Mr. Slosson, of Sa-

betha, Ethel Fountain, of Fairview. Miss Fountain became a brilliant scientist and married Prof. Hussey, a man high in the same profession. She was his helper and companion in all remarkable achievements. Indeed, she was more: his partner in equal right. The same is true of the Slosson family. Dr. Slosson is associate editor of "The Independent Magazine" of New York, a periodical of highest standard. All are children of farmers, who helped to build this part of Kansas into the great commonwealth it is today. Mrs. Hussey's recent death occurred when she was returning from a trip of scientific research with her husband. Now for the pleasant things one gentle prophet of Nemaha county has to say of another, in a recent issue of "The Independent Magazine."

"The oldest of our State universities and the youngest of the universities of Argentina have formed a unique sort of partnership to increase their efficiency in astronomical research. The observatories of Michigan and LaPlata have been, for the last few years, under the management of a single astronomer and their telescopes working in harmony command the heavens. Prof. W. J. Hussey is doubtless the first man to attempt to occupy chairs in two universities 9,000 miles apart. But Prof. Hussey is not unused to attempting the unusual. He has been at it all his life. A farmer boy does not work his own way to the front rank of steller discoveries at the age of forty-nine without exceptional initiative and ability. He started in life with no apparent advantages toward such a career, perhaps Quaker ancestry and a book loving father. He took the engineer course at Ann Arbor, working summers on railroad construction in Wyoming and Kansas to get money to carry him through the winter. One summer he was ordered to report to the superintendent at Mankato, to be sent into the field. Entering the office he found the superintendent out and while waiting, his orderly mind was so much distressed by the confusion in the office that he busied himself cleaning up and setting things to rights. When the superintendent came back and saw the transformation he gave the young man a position in the office instead of sending him out on the road. At the Lick Observatory on Mount Hamilton he began the discoveries which brought him an international reputation. Upon the publication of his work on the double stars observed at Pultowa, Russia, and of his systematic observations of the satellites of Saturn for many years, he was elected to membership in the Royal Astronomical Society of London and awarded the Lalande gold medal by the Paris Academy of Science. He has devoted himself especially to double stars, and has discovered 1,400 such systems previously unknown. He has found that about one star out of every eighteen is really double. To distinguish between two such stars, which are less than two seconds of an arc apart is as difficult as it would be to distinguish two pinheads placed side by side at a distance of two miles."

When Professor Hussey made the pictures of the eclipsed sun in Egypt, Mrs. Hussey accompanied him, and wrote a story of the experience for the California papers. The "Herald," at that time, commented on her rare powers as a writer, and quoted from her story. A brief resume of Mrs. Hussey's story is reproduced here from the "Herald" of that date, about eight years ago.

"She tells of the long trip through the desert, and hardships of constructing and mounting the enormous photographic instruments. Ice was carried over 500 miles to the party, not for their personal comfort, but to put in the photographic baths to counteract the effect of the intense heat so that the gelatine in the photographic plates would not melt.

"Weeks were spent in preparation, and thousands of dollars were spent, all for that two and a half minutes of time in which the eclipse lasted. Mrs. Hussey describes the scenes among the astronomers at the critical time just preceding the eclipse, and in very dramatic fashion. One hitch in the elaborate clock work and other mechanism would have been disastrous to the expedition, but the plates were photographed and developed successfully and were on their way to America when the letter was written. Mrs. Hussey's husband is one of the big astronomers of the country. We quote below the opening paragraph of Mrs. Hussey's article which gives an idea of her style, and which we pronounce good enough to be literature.

"The unique interest that attaches to a total eclipse of the sun is not hard to explain; it is beautiful, it is rare, it is tantalizingly brief, it is a clue to mysteries. That blazing star, without which we should not know our own world, without which we should not know life at all, long stood behind its own light unrevealed. Now and then the moon's disk, of just proportions to screen the unbearable brilliance, comes between, and there flash into light the rose-red flames above the chromosphere, and the cold radiance never else suspected, the corona. A brief moment it hangs; then the following limb of the black disk crusts with red, a blinding spot of yellow appears, the light of common day again floods the sky, and the corona is lost like the dawn."

F. R. Richards was the childhood playmate of the famous lost Charlie Ross. Mr. Richard's father, the Rev. E. Richards, was a minister in New York, and lived next door to the Ross family. F. R. Richards says that for several years he played with Charlie Ross, the boy who was stolen. The Richards and Ross boys were almost the same age, and they were inseparable companions. One day when Richards was about six years old, he remembers missing Charlie Ross. Making inquiries of his mother, Richards learned that Charlie Ross had been stolen. Mr. Richards says he remembers his loneliness for days after Charlie Ross had been stolen, because of being robbed of the companionship of the lost Charlie Ross.



## EX-GOV. W. J. BAILEY.

Willis J. Bailey, vice president and managing officer of the Exchange National Bank, Atchison, Kans., since 1907, and governor of the State of Kansas from 1903 to 1905, was born in Carroll county, Illinois, October 12, 1854. He was educated in the common schools, the Mount Carroll High School, and graduated at the University of Illinois as a member of the class of 1879. In 1904 his Alma Mater conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws. In 1879, soon after completing his college course, he accompanied his father to Nemaha county, Kansas, where they engaged in farming and stock raising, and founded the town of Baileyville. Upon reaching his majority Governor Bailey cast his lot with the Republican party, and since that time has been an active and consistent advocate of the principles espoused by that organization. In 1888 he was elected to represent his county in the State legislature; was reelected in 1890; was president of the Republican State League in 1893; was the Republican candidate for Congress in the First district in 1896, and in June, 1898, was nominated by the State convention at Hutchison as the candidate for congressman at large, defeating Richard W. Blue. After serving in the Fifty-sixth Congress he retired to his farm, but in 1902, was nominated by his party for governor. At the election in November he defeated W. H. Craddock, the Democratic candidate, by a substantial majority, and began his term as governor in January, 1903. At the close of his term as governor he removed to Atchison, and since 1907, has been vice president and manager of the Exchange National Bank of that city. Shortly after his retirement from the office of governor, he was prominently mentioned as a candidate for United States senator, and in 1908, a large number of Republicans of the State urged his nomination for governor. Mr. Bailey has always been interested in behalf of the farmers of the country, and from 1895 to 1899, he was a member of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture.

## E. G. STITT.

E. G. Stitt, late of Sabetha, was an old time friend and business comrade of William Thaw, grandfather of Harry K. Thaw, and he told the story of how the Thaw fortune was started and incidentally mentioned the sterling character of old William Thaw, on whose grandson the attention of the nation was riveted during his trial for the murder of Stanford White. William Thaw was an old canal man on the Pennsylvania canal and made a large part of his money in the canal business. He had in a measure retired from the canal for larger interests when Mr. Stitt was interested in canal contracts. William Thaw, Andrew Carnegie, a man named Clark and Thomas A. Scott built a bridge over the Alleghany river to connect two railroads which heretofore had

transferred passengers by drayage and busses and horses. The four men asked Mr. Stitt to take a block of stock in the bridge; in fact, they were rather insistent about it. But Mr. Stitt was fearful of the venture and dared not sink his money. Had he put in \$1,000 he would have received enough money from the receipts of the bridge to have kept him for life. The four men mentioned were bridge stockholders. They charged twenty-five cents each for all passengers over the bridge and \$5 for each car and engine. The same charge is still in effect after half a century. There are thousands of passenger and cars crossing this bridge daily. Harry K. Thaw, millionaire homicide, is one of the beneficiaries of the immense amount of money brought in by the bridge now. William Stitt said that William Thaw was the most beloved man in Pennsylvania. He was loved by young and old, rich and poor. Saturday afternoons Mr. Thaw gave entirely to the interests of the poor. They rang the bell of his palatial Pittsburg home and he personally talked with them and heard their troubles. He alleviated them by money or sympathy, as the case required. He personally saw that the cases of trouble were genuine. Upon his death the city of Pittsburg went into mourning. Mr. Thaw was worth \$100,000,000 at the time of his death. He left \$10,000,000 to each of his ten children. This is the sort of a man whose grandson faced the murder charge and is known as the degenerate son of riches, who in a measure expiated his crime in prison and asylum.

#### MISS NANNIE KULHMANN.

Miss Nannie Kulhmann, a former Centralia woman, is holding a position in Washington for which she had to compete with a hundred men. She is official translator for the patent office. In her work she writes, reads and translates twelve different languages and the dialects of each. The languages are French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Dutch, Russian, Polish, Bohemian, Hungarian, Norwegian and Swedish. Miss Kuhlmann is A. Oberndorf's sister-in-law. She taught school in Centralia two terms, about 1883 and 1884. Her sister, Miss Emily Kulhmann, who was here at the same time, the two emigrating from Germany, was one of the first kindergarten teachers in Kansas, having a class here and beginning the work in Topeka. She is now deceased.

#### SENATOR W. H. THOMPSON.

Senator William Howard Thompson, of the United States Senate, was a Nemaha county youth, who recalls with interest his arrival in the county and the long walk he made to a farm in Rock Creek township, north of Sabetha. He was a good pupil in school, taught in the country schools, was his father's court stenographer when his father was district judge, married a daughter of Andy Felt, of beloved memory, one of the pioneer newspaper men of the county, and was elected to the senate when a resident of Garden City, Kans., having, within the current year, removed to Kansas City, Kans.

## MRS. VIRGINIA GREEVER.

Nemaha county claims Mrs. Virginia Greever for her daughter. Miss Dora Adriance, of the Seneca "Courier-Democrat," one of the cleverest of Kansas newspaper women reporters, says that Mrs. Greever was the most intimate girlhood friend of her mother. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Newland, who lived and died in Seneca. Mrs. Greever brought prohibition to Kansas. The story goes that thirty-five years ago the prohibition question was up for decision in the Kansas legislature, the amendment prohibiting the sale of liquor as a beverage. The Senate passed it. Both men and women were working for its passage by the House, but defeat seemed to be imminent. Speaker Clark was about to announce a negative vote, when Mrs. Virginia Greever, a Nemaha county girl, then the wife of a member from Wyandotte county, rushed up to him, and in an impassioned plea, besought him for her children's sake, and for his children's sake, and all the children of the world, for Kansas' sake, and, above all, for God's sake, to change his negative vote to a vote in favor of the measure. Mr. Greever put his arm around his wife, faced Speaker Clark, and said: "Mr. Speaker, I vote in favor of prohibition." So it was through the courage of a Nemaha county woman and the consideration of her husband, a Democrat, that Kansas secured the most famous law in its constitution.

## WALT MASON.

Walt Mason, the most widely read and best paid poet America has produced, is a Nemaha county product; or, if not born within its confines, he spent many years on its farms. Recently, Walt Mason wrote a poem about acquiring an automobile. His ambition was to come directly up to Nemaha county and parade up and down the road before the Nemaha county farmer's place where he was employed as a youth, and honk his automobile horn continuously to let the man know how he had prospered. He has not come as yet, but we are expecting him. Nemaha county is very proud of Walt Mason. Not to have read his poems argues oneself absolutely ignorant of newspaper perusal. Walt Mason worked as a cub reporter on the Atchison Globe. He wrote his paid locals into poetry that amused the entire town and were his first poetical effusions. He puts a sheet of paper, or a roll, rather, in the typewriter and simply reels off his inimitable stuff by the yard.

## FREDERICK GATES.

Frederick Gates, private secretary and right hand man for John D. Rockefeller, was a boy in Sabetha. His father, Rev. Granville Gates, was the first minister of the Baptist church, the first church in Sabetha. Rev. Gates was pastor of the church during most of the seventies, and

was here when the church edifice was erected. Fred Gates did not forget his boyhood chums during his brilliant financial career. At least one of them, George Black, whose mother was one of the founders of the Baptist church, was offered a position with Mr. Gates in his work in the East. Mr. Black is now a figure in insurance circles in St. Louis. Frederick Gates later became cashier of a bank in Highland, Kans., and afterward a preacher in Minnesota, where George A. Pillsbury, the great miller, became interested in him. The original corporation papers of the immense Pillsbury mills were written by the son of a Nemaha county farmer, Judge W. D. Webb. Pillsbury helped Gates found the Pillsbury Academy at Owatonna, Minn. Later, Gates started a movement to found a big university in Chicago, and interested Rockefeller in the plan, securing from him the first \$600,000 contribution. Rockefeller insisted that Chicago people should make this an even million and Gates induced Chicago men to put their money into the enterprise. From this start the great University of Chicago was built, and a Nemaha county boy started it.

Fred Gates became the big distributor of John D. Rockefeller's gifts, and became a great financier on his own account. He was president of great corporations, the biggest of which was the Lake Superior Consolidated Iron mines, with railroads, boat lines, etc., which Gates sold to the United States Steel Corporation for \$75,000,000.

Frederick Gates was a cousin of the late Myron Lewis, of Sabetha, whose family received a typewritten story of the life of his father, the Rev. Granville Gates, upon the latter's death.

W. C. Pace, ninety-six years old, the first bandmaster of Nemaha county, who still lives with his son, T. J. Pace, was a warm friend of Rev. Gates, and kept a special room of his home ready for him all during his life in the West.

#### REV. A. G. LOHMAN.

Rev. A. G. Lohman established the boys' industrial home under Mayor Tom Johnson, at Cleveland, Ohio, upon the theory that there are no incorrigible boys. About twenty-five years ago, Lohman was preaching for the German Reformed church in Brown and Nemaha counties, in northeastern Kansas. Later, he went to Cleveland, Ohio, where his voice, that had been strong enough in Kansas, failed, and he tackled the kind of work that suited his taste much better than preaching. He is a practical, sensible American of German parentage, trained in farm life, a man of infinite patience, the kind to handle boys. Mr. Lohman was put in charge of organizing of the homes for boys, a movement then in its inception, in 1902. He has recently written a history of the farm and its work. The city first bought a farm of 123 acres, with a barn not very large or convenient, and no house. Mr. Lohman moved his family into the barn and made his home there until

the first cottage had been built. Boys began to come to the farm before the house was finished. The first boy who came was quartered in a tent with the workmen until the house was finished. It soon developed that more land was needed, so an adjoining farm of 162 acres was purchased. That gave the farm 285 acres at a total cost of \$12,300. The second farm had a house on it. The total amount that has been expended for the farm and all improvements in five years has been \$70,000. This paid for the land, seven cottages, four barns, an engine house, bakery, laundry, carpenter shop, gymnasium, waterworks and sewer system, electric light plant and all other permanent improvements. Rev. Lohman is the son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Lohman, of Sabetha.

COL. H. BAKER.

"The Father of Bern."

By Mrs. V. A. Bird.

The people of Bern and vicinity were shocked and received with sad hearts a telegram announcing the death of Col. Hy Baker, at the home of relatives at Utica, N. Y., at 4 o'clock p. m. Sunday, March 10, 1913. The telegram stated that Colonel Baker had reached there on April 20, from Kingston, Jamaica, very much improved in health, and was in fine spirits all day Sunday. He went out to dinner at one o'clock and died suddenly of heart failure five minutes after entering the house. On receipt of the telegram, the flag at the city hall was hoisted half mast in honor of the man who was the founder of Bern. Colonel Baker was born in Utica, N. Y., which was his home for twenty-eight years. He was by profession a civil engineer, and was appointed city engineer of Utica when twenty-five years old. Later, he came West and was made chief engineer in charge of the construction of the Hannibal & St. Joseph railway into St. Joseph, in 1859. He enlisted in the Union army when the Civil war broke out, and while serving as engineer at Ft. Riley was given the rank of colonel, although he never served at the front. At one time during the war he was detailed to serve as revenue collector in Missouri, and after the war ran as railway mail clerk between Kansas City and St. Louis. In connection with others he secured control of the charter of the Iowa & Missouri railway, which was sold to the Rock Island, and which became their entrance into St. Joseph from the East. During the construction of the C. K. & N. railway (now the Rock Island) he served as special agent in securing bonds in aid of the road, and during this time, about 1886, he purchased the land where Bern stands, platted the town and induced the railroad to build the necessary depot and side tracks, and Bern came into existence. Since that time Bern has been more or less his home, and especially during the last few years he has spent most of his time here. Colonel Baker was one of the best informed men in this country, being a great reader and having a

splendid memory. He was a very strong character, and in his early days an aggressive worker—the best of friends to those whom he liked and a bitter enemy on sufficient provocation. In his early days he joined the Masonic order with his lodge connections at Utica, and was laid to rest with all the honors of the order. He was never married, and, with the exception of two nephews, his family has preceded him to the grave.

#### AND OTHERS.

Ralph Bunker, of Sabetha, is winning his way as an actor with Guy Bates in "Omar, the Tentmaker." C. J. Taylor is prominent in the pension office at Washington. He is a Seneca youth. The two Maxwell boys, Howard and Giles, are designers and consulting engineers with the General Electric people in Schenectady, and have built electric railroads in England, and are now planning a railroad to be built in Australia when the European war closes. One could go through the list and find scores of other Nemaha county youths who have made big names in the big world outside.

## CHAPTER XXXII.

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### THE CHURCH IN NEMAHA COUNTY.

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FIRST SERMON—SENECA BAPTIST CHURCH ORGANIZED HERE—METHODISTS IN 1857—PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN 1863—CONGREGATIONALISTS—UNIVERSALISTS—ROMAN CATHOLIC—ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF ST. BENEDICT'S—STS. PETER AND PAUL'S, SENECA—ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH—SENECA CHURCH MEETINGS—SABETHA CHURCHES—CENTRALIA CHURCHES—WETMORE CHURCHES—ONEIDA CHURCHES—CORNING CHURCHES—CHURCHES OF OTHER TOWNS.

There is no doubt that the first sermon in Nemaha county was preached by a Baptist minister. Rev. Thomas Newton was a representative of the regular Baptist missionary society. Rev. Newton died in 1881, when he was eighty-four years old. Rev. Thomas Newton preached anywhere and everywhere during the first few years after his arrival in the county. The church itself was finally established at Central City, August 1, 1857, and for two years was the only denominational place of worship in the county. Rev. Newton was followed by his son, Thomas C. Newton in preaching the gospel on Baptist lines. The Central City Baptist Church was finally combined with the Seneca Baptist Church in 1875, after a brave existence of nearly twenty years, when it became apparent that the demise of Central City, generally, was only a matter of a brief time. The Central City Church, which had been erected years before, was finally used for a school house.

The Seneca Baptist Church was organized in 1866 in the Seneca school house, with the Lanham families, the Newton families, Rosanne Cordell and Eli Story and Silas Wicks as constituent members. It has not been as thriving as its pioneer efforts would warrant for twenty years and more, worshipping in the school house, private homes and utilizing the Universalist Church.

The Methodists followed closely on the heels of the Baptists in organizing at Seneca and became a strong church in that field of endeavor. The church was organized in 1857, but was visited only by the old-time circuit rider, Rev. Leonard Nichols. After a camp meeting held in Seneca the church was duly established, but the pastor, Rev. Asbury Clark, included surrounding towns in his itinerary, even as did John Wesley, father of the Methodist church, until the time of his death. The generous Universal building shared with the Methodist church also its roof and

seats, and it was not until 1877 that the Methodists erected a church building. Rev. D. D. Holmes dedicated the new church.

On June 14, 1863, a meeting was held for the purpose of organizing a Presbyterian church with such splendid names on the roster as J. C. Hebbard, for many years head of the school matters of Nemaha county; Eliza Williams, Elvira Johnson, J. W. Fuller. The church did not thrive. Rev. Nash was sent for a few months to the charge. The feasibility of the erection of a common church to be used by all sects was discussed, but the settling as to which denomination should give its name to the building caused dissension. Finally the Universalists built an edifice, which was shared with the Congregationalists and Baptists.

The Congregationalists, which organized in 1866, built a home of their own in 1870, which was dedicated on Christmas day. Rev. W. C. Stewart was the first pastor. At least two of the pastors, Rev. R. B. Guild and Rev. A. G. Bergen, succeeding him, remained faithful to Nemaha county, and their children have been factors in the progress and upbuilding of both Seneca and Sabetha. Mr. Guild's children and Mr. Bergen's children married and remained in the county. George A. Guild, the eldest son, became a banker, and finally became president of the National Bank of Sabetha and is now cashier of the Capital National Bank of Topeka. A connection, the late Edwin Knowles, was president of the same Topeka bank. Miss Susan Guild, a daughter, was principal of the Sabetha schools for several years, and is now dean of Carroll College for Girls at Waukesha, Wis. Miss Jessie Guild is a distinguished artist in Minneapolis, Minn. Roy B. Guild, a son, is head of the Congregational Society in Boston Mass. Will Guild is president of a bank in Hiawatha, and Harry Guild is president of a bank in Bern. Fred Bergen, son of A. G. Bergen, is president of a bank in Summerfield. So the influence of these fine, noble men has been felt all during the life of this section of Kansas.

Two thousand dollars was subscribed for a general church in Seneca to be called the Presbyterian. The Universalists added to this sum \$1,600 in order that the title might be Universalist, to which all churches agreed, including the Presbyterians, and the edifice was erected, the property, however, belonging to the Universalists. Charlie Scrafford, J. H. Peckham, William Histed, J. P. Taylor and D. B. McKay were the trustees. The building was of soft old gray stone and today the edifice is a lovely, restful church of general use, resembling the quaint old churches of England, which have withstood the ravages of centuries. Rev. G. W. Skinner held the first service in the church, July 17, 1869. Rev. J. H. Ballou was the first pastor.

The following is told of a Seneca minister's visit to the notorious Bender home, where wholesale murder was committed in early days:

The only Kansas man known to have incidentally visited at the Bender home and escaped is the Rev. C. L. Titus, of the Universalist Church of Seneca. Mr. Titus was passing through Kansas in 1868 and



went through Seneca on his way South. He was going to Independence to attend the big powwow held down there upon the opening of the Southern Kansas lands. He visited it in company with Dr. York, who was the last man killed by the Benders. In driving through the country at that time Mr. Titus stopped at the Bender place for a drink of water. He is the only man known to have drunk from the Bender well and escaped with his life.

The Roman Catholic Church has been a great success in Seneca and the western part of the county. The buildings in Seneca of the St. Paul and St. Peter Church and the parochial school add greatly to the architectural beauty of the county seat. The society was instituted in 1869, largely by Mathias Stein. The district school building was purchased, with a block of land in the center of the town, Mr. Stein contributing a generous amount of money. The buildings have from time to time been improved and rebuilt until the square is now the most attractive and valuable. The school entertainments, the library and the general air surrounding Sts. Peter and Paul's breathes peace and contentment.

#### ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF ST. BENEDICT, FORMERLY "WILD CAT."

The first Catholic settlers in this part of Nemaha county were Thomas Carlin and John Koch, who came here in 1857; the year after there arrived John and Joseph Koelzer, Joseph Assenmacher, Peter Blumer, Martin Stahlbaumer, John Dick, Margaret Draney, Michael Rodgers and Martin Rellinger. At the instigation of John Koelzer and John Koch, a little frame church was built in the year 1859. Peter Blumer donated twenty acres of land. Before the building was commenced John Koelzer had gone to Atchison to see the Rev. Augustine Wirth, O. S. B., then Prior of St. Benedict's College of Atchison, in order to make arrangement with him for a priest to come out here occasionally to hold divine services. After Father Augustine had given his consent they began building; and in June, 1859, Rev. Edmund Langenfelder, O. S. B. (died April 8, 1885), came out the first time, he being the first Catholic priest to set his foot on the soil of Nemaha county, Kansas.

In the fall of the same year, Rev. Father Augustine paid this place a visit; he was here also twice in 1860. In September, 1860, the Rev. Philip Vogt, O. S. B., was sent here to attend to the few Catholic families. In the spring of 1861, Rev. Emmanuel Hartig, O. S. B., paid his first visit to this place. The first church was a very modest building, the cash expenses for same having been \$92.20. Its size was 12x25 feet.

When the church was about finished, there was wanting some glass and some other small things, which required about \$20. And as nobody except Michael Rogers had any money, it was decided by John Koelzer, John Koch and Thomas Carlin to give Michael Rogers the privilege of

naming the church, and then charge him \$20 for it. Michael, not knowing but suspecting this manner of collecting, called it St. Mary's Church and had the pleasure of furnishing the \$20 gold piece.

After having finished the church the people desired a stationary priest, and, in spite of not having had any harvest at all in 1860 on account of the great drought, they built a parish house, which was commenced in the spring of 1861 and finished in June of the same year.

Their efforts and zeal were rewarded; for Father Augustine, O. S. B., sent the Rev. Severin Rotter, O. S. B. (died April 1, 1898), who arrived here on June 18, 1861. He was the first resident priest of Nemaha county.

From here he attended the following missions:

St. Bridget's settlement, sixteen miles northwest of here.

St. Augustine settlement, now called Capioma or Fidelity, about twenty-two miles southeast of here.

St. Joseph settlement in the southeast corner of Marshall county. This mission was commenced on December 1, 1861; it is now generally called Irish Creek.

Elwood and Belmont, near Wathena.

The first baptism administered in Nemaha county was that of Joseph Koch, son of John and Anna Mary Koch; and the first wedding was that of Joseph Koelzer and Sophie Koblit.

The names of people who constituted the parish in the year 1861 are: John Koch, John Koelzer, Joseph Koelzer, Martin Stallbaumer, Martin Rellinger, Margaret Draney, Peter Blumer, Thomas Carlin, Michael Rogers, Mathias Stein, W. Berntsen, John Dick, Martin Bedeau, Justus Azere, Jacob Rellinger, Joseph Rellinger, Patrick McCaffrey, James Graney.

The salary of the Rev. Severin Rotter, O. S. B., in the year 1861 was \$11.50.

How primitive the first church must have been, appears from the accounts, as they had paid \$2 for making the pews, \$2.50 for the tabernacle, \$2.05 for the confessional, fifty cents for a table in the priest's house, \$3.50 for a bed.

In the year 1862 the priest had an income of \$23.85.

After the parish had been thus established, more people moved in, and soon it was evident that the church was too small. Hence, in the year 1864, another larger church was built, whose size was 18x35 feet. It was Father Emmanuel Hartig, O. S. B., now Vicar General of the diocese of Lincoln, Neb., who built this church.

It was about this time that one of the Benedictine Fathers acquired an iron bell for the church. This bell, the first church bell in Nemaha county, had belonged to a boat which sailed on the Missouri river between St. Joseph and Weston. When it was rung first, everybody admired its "beautiful" sound. No one can give definite information of what has become of this bell.



ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ST. BENEDICT, KANSAS.



In the year 1868 the priest's residence was transferred to Seneca, where a congregation had been organized in 1866. This was done principally through the influence of Mathias Stein, who had lived here several years and then moved to Seneca to open a furniture store.

Nothing remarkable happened from 1868 till 1880.

The priests who had charge of the parish from 1861 till 1880 were: Fathers Emmanuel Hartig, O. S. B., Pirmine Koumly, O. S. B., Thomas Bartl, O. S. B., Timothy Lubert, O. S. B., Eugene Bode, O. S. B., and again Emmanuel Hartig, O. S. B.

In 1878 and 1879, Father Emmanuel advertised the place to a great extent by sending articles to different Catholic papers. His efforts were well blessed; people responded to his call, and at the beginning of 1880 there were here about sixty families. The church had to be enlarged, but instead of enlarging it, they decided to build a new one, which was to last for some generations. It was 40x90 feet.

When the church was finished by Father Emmanuel, O. S. B., the congregation purchased a bell from H. Stuckstede, of St. Louis, Mo., which weighed 1,850 pounds. This bell was a beauty, indeed, for the congregation, especially so because it surpassed the Seneca bell in size. The people joyfully recollect the day it was consecrated by the bishop.

In the fall of 1881, Father Ferdinand Wolf, O. S. B., was appointed pastor of the congregation, and had charge until 1883, when Father Timothy Lubert, O. S. B., succeeded him. He built the sacristy and the pastoral residence in 1883. From November, 1883, the pastor lived here again. Father Timothy, O. S. B., was pastor until 1885, when Rev. Fridolin Meyer, O. S. B., was appointed, who remained four years. He was succeeded by Rev. Ambrose Rank, O. S. B., who, on account of sickness, had to give up after five weeks' service. In September, 1889, Father Pirmine Koumly, O. S. B., took charge.

The congregation had in the meantime increased to 109 families, so that the church built in 1880 was entirely too small. The question arose what to do, to enlarge the church or to build a new one. For quite a time the people were divided, some were in favor of erecting a splendid new church of brick or stone, others, fearing the enormous cost, wanted an addition to the old church. At last they agreed to leave the decision to the bishop, the Rt. Rev. Louis M. Fink, O. S. B., who decided that a new church should be built of stone, and large enough for all future wants. And work was soon in progress. A subscription was taken up in the parish by Father Pirmine and Mr. Timothy Heinan, which amounted to over \$16,000. During the year 1891 the foundation and basement were made at a cost of about \$3,500. After they were completed they were covered with a good coat of cement to protect them against rain; they had decided to wait at least one year before erecting the main building.

Father Pirmine was appointed pastor of the Seneca parish and entered upon his new field on July 6, 1892. His successor was P. Herman

Mengwasser, O. S. B. On the second Sunday of September, 1892, the congregation publicly voted on this question proposed by the pastor: "Are you willing to pay your subscription to the church on or before June 1, 1893, in cash or to give a bankable note for amount subscribed at six per cent. interest? The time given for payment of same limited to three or four years." All except nine gave their consent. But even eight of these afterward consented also, to the great satisfaction of priest and people.

In a short time all available place around the church was filled with stone, which the members of the parish hauled from a place three miles northeast of the church. On April 30, 1893, the Rt. Rev. Bishop laid the cornerstone, and on December 1 of the same year the church was under roof, except the tower.

In January, 1894, a new subscription of \$14,500 was raised by the pastor, and the church building was completed November 13, 1894. On the following day it was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. Bishop amid a concourse of about 3,000 people. P. N. Schlechter, S. J., of St. Louis., preached the German, and P. Charles Stoeckle, O. S. B., of Atchison, then of Seneca, the English sermon.

The dimensions of the church are 162x60 feet; ceiling in center aisle, fifty-two and a half feet high; in side aisles, thirty-five feet high. The tower reaches 172½ feet from the water table, and is covered with copper. The six windows in the transept were made by Mayer & Company, of Munich, Bavaria, at a cost of \$2,400. The Sacred Heart Rose window above the altar is six feet in diameter and cost \$275. Style of church is Roman.

In the year 1895, the congregation bought four bells of 3,200, 1,800, 900 and 500 pounds, respectively, from St. Louis, Mo.

In the spring of 1899 the new main altar, which cost \$2,700, was set up.

In the year 1900, two side altars and a communion railing were put into the church at a cost of \$1,500.

On September 7, 1900, Rev. Herman Mengwasser, O. S. B., was succeeded by Rev. Anthony Baar, O. S. B.

In the year 1901, the church was frescoed by G. F. Satory, of Wabasha, Minn., and decorated with twelve large oil paintings by Th. Zukotynski, of Chicago. The cost of this work was \$4,100.

In September, 1903, the church was furnished with a set of fine Group-Stations of the Cross at a cost of \$2,200. The year following, eleven Munich statues were donated to the church by various members of the parish.

At present the parish consists of about 150 families, and is in charge of Father Gregory Neumayr.

This place was called Wild Cat until the year 1883, when a post-office was established here, and the name was changed to St. Benedict.

## STS. PETER AND PAUL'S CHURCH, SENECA.

By P. Joseph Sittenauer, O. S. B.

Although this is now the largest Catholic community in Nemaha county, the cradle of Catholicity in this county is not Seneca, but St. Benedict, formerly called Wild Cat. The first priest to say Holy Mass there, as early as May, 1859, was the Rev. Edmond Langenfelder, O. S. B., who was sent by the Rev. Augustus Wirth, O. S. B., then prior of St. Benedict's College, Atchison. The first child baptized in this county, on May 12, 1859, was Thomas Rogers, who now resides in the Seneca parish. The first Catholic couple to be married, on April 17, 1860, were Josepr Koelzer and Sophie Koblitz, the parents of J. P. Koelzer, of Seneca. Whatever Catholics may have resided in and about Seneca from that time until the early part of 1868 had to go to church at Wild Cat, where the priest resided since June, 1861, and from where he visited different missions.

It was mainly due to the efforts of Mathias Stein that the priest's residence was transferred to Seneca in the spring of 1868. Mr. Stein had for several years lived in the Wild Cat district, but moved to Seneca to open a furniture store. Rev. Pirmin Koumly, O. S. B., was the first resident pastor living at Seneca. He was, after about six months, succeeded by Rev. Thomas Bartl, O. S. B. Father Thomas was, after another half year, followed by Father Pirmin, who remained till the end of 1871. In the beginning, Holy Mass was celebrated in Mr. Stein's residence. In 1870, however, the small congregation purchased the public school house to be used as a church, together with the block on which it was situated. This is the block which now contains the church and parish house. Shortly after, a small residence and a frame addition to the brick church were erected.

The parish was greatly increased under Rev. Emmanuel Hartig, O. S. B., who was pastor from the spring of 1875 to the fall of 1881. He extensively advertised the Catholic settlement of Nemaha county and drew a considerable number of new settlers to this neighborhood.

A small beginning had already been made for a Catholic school, with Mr. Huhn as schoolmaster. But Father Emmanuel soon realized that he could not look for great success unless he put the school under the care of teaching sisters. He acquired, partly by donation and partly by purchase, the block on which the parochial school is situated. New buildings were erected and school was opened by the Benedictine Sisters of Mt. St. Scholastica's Academy, Atchison, in the year 1878. New additions had to be made in the course of time to meet the growing needs of the school.

The parish grew quietly, but constantly, under Father Emmanuel's successor, the Rev. Thomas Bartl, O. S. B., who had been pastor once before. He resided at Seneca from the fall of 1881 till the summer of 1885.

Sick and worn out by his many and long missionary labors, good old Father Thomas, as he is still called by the old residents, retired to his monastery at Atchison, where he died November 30, 1885, at the age of fifty-five years.

The time had now come for a more rapid and more systematic development of the parish. The merit of unifying and organizing the many forces that had been created by long and hard work belongs to Rev. Suitbert Demarteu, O. S. B., who resided at Seneca from August, 1885,



STS. PETER AND PAUL'S CHURCH, SENECA, KANS.

to April, 1892. It was during the early part of his stay that the main portion of the present church was built, a grand structure for that time, which was a sign of unshaken confidence, both on the part of the people and the priest, in the great future of Sts. Peter and Paul's parish. When the church was completed, the small residence, consisting of two rooms, was moved to the north of it, and there served, for some years, both as sacristy and as residence, until a suitable dwelling was built in 1890.



Father Suitbert was a man of strong character and great energy. He, more than any other priest before or after him, impressed his personality upon this flourishing community.

As the thunderstorm, with its refreshing rain, must be followed by the warm rays of the sun to make the crops grow and ripen, so the energetic Father Suitbert was followed by the quiet and gentle Rev. Primine Koumly, O. S. B., who, from the summer of 1892 until the fall of 1895, ruled the parish and enjoyed the fruits of his earlier work at Seneca. An ailment, which was due to a sick call on a cold night, whilst he was himself sick with influenza, developed to such proportions that he had to retire to his monastery. Though his health was never completely restored, he lived until July 27, 1904, a very active member of his community to the last.

Rev. Boniface Verheyen, O. S. B., was the successor of Father Pirmine, from October, 1895, to midsummer, 1898. It was during his time, in May, 1896, that the cyclone struck Seneca. The church was severely damaged by the storm, but none of the other church property suffered. The loss was repaired at once, and in the year 1897, the congregation had sufficiently recovered to undertake the building of a new school. The foundation for the new school house had been laid in 1895, but, on account of the cyclone, its completion was delayed for one year. Father Boniface intended to build a school that would be large enough for all future times, and many a one, at the time, thought that the proportions of the building were extravagant. Of late years, however, it has often been regretted that the school was not built larger at that time.

Father Boniface was recalled as professor to the college at Atchison in the summer of 1898, and, after an interval of four months, during which the Rev. Winfrid Schmitt, O. S. B., was pastor, the Rev. Charles Stoeckle, O. S. B., succeeded him. The church had now become too small to hold the congregation, and Father Charles added the sanctuary, thus gaining a considerable amount of space. Father Charles was also the moving force in establishing the new parish at Kelly, thus creating an outlet for the overflow for which there was not sufficient room within the confines of the Seneca and the St. Benedict parishes. Father Charles, though always looking healthy and robust, had long been ailing. He finally submitted to an operation, which brought about his death on April 14, 1903. He was succeeded by the Rev. Thomas Burke, O. S. B., who presided over the parish for three years. During Father Thomas' time the school made great progress, as he strained every nerve to make it accessible for every Catholic child.

In August, 1906, Father Thomas was succeeded by the Rev. Lawrence Theis, O. S. B., who came at the time when it had become necessary to put the finishing touch to the parish. Until this time, the second story of the school house had served as a hall for the different entertainments. Through Father Thomas' activity an enlargement of the school became an absolute necessity. Hence, the former hall space was par-

tioned off into four school rooms, thus providing each grade with its own room. This caused an increase in the number of teachers, so that the old dwelling of the sisters had to be replaced by a new and modern building, which was erected in 1907. The want of an entertainment hall was soon felt and the opinion gradually prevailed that a parish like Seneca could not well thrive without an adequate place for lawful recreation. The auditorium was built in 1909 and 1910. It is a stately structure and affords ample opportunity for dramatic performances and different kinds of amusements for young and old. An addition was also built to the pastor's residence in the year 1909. The work and worry connected with the erection of these buildings nearly proved too much of a strain for Father Lawrence's nerves. His pastorship had to be interrupted by a rest of eight months, from January to September, 1910. After his return to the parish, Father Lawrence stayed for two more years, completing the different kinds of work which he had begun. But his failing health made it imperative in the summer of 1912 to relieve him of the heavy burden. He is now pastor of a smaller parish in Atchison county.

Father Lawrence was succeeded by the Rev. Joseph Sittenauer, O. S. B. Since the parish now possesses all the necessary buildings, the task as pastor will henceforth be comparatively easy, although even the upkeep of these buildings requires a great amount of care and watchfulness. The ease, however, is only a comparative one. Priests who exercise the care of souls in a large parish, with a numerous school annexed, have no idle moments.

### ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, KELLY.

The Kelly parish was organized in the fall of 1901, by Rev. Charles Stoeckle, O. S. B., then pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul's Church at Seneca, and Alois Nolte, of the Seneca parish. The site for the first church was selected and the foundation laid. Rev. Father Edwin Kassens, O. S. B., of St. Benedict's College of Atchison, was appointed parish priest the following spring and held his first services on Sunday, March 16, 1902. The services were held in the district school building. Services in the school building continued until July 20, 1902, when the frame church building was completed. The original building was 24x52 feet. The first services were held in the new church August 3, 1902, and the organ from the school building was borrowed for the service. The new church was dedicated August 27, 1902, by the Rt. Rev. L. M. Fink, D.D., then bishop of the Leavenworth diocese, now deceased, assisted by Rev. P. Boniface Verheyen, O. S. B., of Atchison, and Rev. P. Charles, O. S. B., of Seneca; Rev. Anthony Baar, O. S. B., of St. Mary's parish, at St. Benedict's, and Rev. Father Edwin, O. S. B., the parish pastor.

In the fall of 1903, the parochial school was completed and the first term began September 18, 1903, with an enrollment of twenty-seven boys

and fourteen girls. In August, 1905, another room was added to the school, and living rooms for the parish teachers. At the present term of St. Bede's parochial school there are sixty-one boys and forty-one girls enrolled.

Rt. Rev. Thomas F. Lillis, D.D., then bishop of Leavenworth, now



ST. BEDE'S CHURCH, KELLY, KANS.

of Kansas City, confirmed the first class of nineteen, on June 19, 1905. The first two years Father Edwin lived at the college in Atchison and made weekly trips to minister to the parish. For a time he then lived in a room of the church, but in May, 1906, at a meeting of the men of the parish, it was decided to build a parish house. Instead, a residence and lots were purchased and has since been used as a parish house.

The first mission was held beginning August 29, 1906, by Rev. Vincent Trost, C. F. M., of Louisville, Ky. On March 8, 1909, the Universalist church building in Kelly was bought by St. Bede's parish and added to the north end of the church building, together with a ten-foot addition.

On January 12, 1913, the church building caught fire and burned to the ground, only a part of the church fixtures being saved. At a mass meeting of the parish members it was decided to build a new church edifice. The years of 1913 and 1914 were poor crop years and the present edifice stands, a monument to the personal sacrifice of the devout members of the parish and to the help of friends and neighbors in Nemaha county.

At the formal dedication which took place Sunday, October 10, 1915, the Rt. Rev. John Ward, D.D., bishop of Leavenworth diocese, read the dedicatory mass and delivered the sermon. Rev. Mathias Stein, O. S. B., Atchison, was celebrant at the mass, and other priests assisted.

The Kelly church is one of the most beautiful in northeast Kansas. It is of Gothic style, 54x100 feet, and from the platform as you enter the church to top of cross it is 125 feet. The church is built of matt-faced pressed brick, trimmed in Algonita stone, which harmonize beautifully in a structure that is very pleasing to the eye. The immense tower of the church rests on footings many feet below the ground, and through the basement three-foot walls support the tower. The basement is well finished, lighted and well ventilated, and nicely arranged. A roomy chapel occupies the east half, with a large seating capacity that is utilized for parish social events. Kitchen rooms are provided and everything is arranged for labor-saving and comfort.

The church itself is neatly finished in white, with nicely arranged sanctuary, roomy pews and choir loft. The church steeple contains a thousand-pound bell, whose musical notes call the members to worship, and on week days peals forth the hour to the countryside, morning, noon and evening.

#### SENECA CHURCH MEETINGS.

Catholic.—Services daily at 8:15 a. m. Sundays, 8:00, 9:00, 10:30 a. m. and 3:00 p. m. Rev. P. Joseph, O. S. B.

Congregational.—Sunday school, 10:00 a. m. Midweek prayer meeting, Wednesday, and C. E. meeting, Thursdays at 8:00 p. m.

First Church of Christ Scientist.—Sunday services, 11:00 a. m. Wednesday evening testimonial service, 8 p. m. Free reading room, church edifice; open Wednesdays and Saturdays, 2 to 4 p. m.

Methodist.—Morning service, 11:00; evening, 7:30. Sunday school, 9:45 a. m.; Epworth League devotional meeting, 6:30 p. m. Rev. I. McMurray, pastor.

Universalist.—Sunday school, 10:00 a. m.; Junior Y. P. C. U., 2:30 p. m.; Senior Y. P. C. U., 7:00 p. m.; teachers' meeting, 8 p. m. Wednesday.

St. Titus Episcopal.—Morning prayer and sermon, first and third Sundays each month at 11:00 a. m.; Sunday school each Sunday at 10:00 a. m. Rev. William B. Guion, rector.

Of late years Seneca has had a Christian Science Church and fortnightly services of an Episcopal membership. Rev. Guion divides his rectorship between Seneca and Hiawatha, making his home in the latter place. Seneca is the most progressive of any Nemaha county town in its church movement. A great interest has been taken in the Community church movement in Seneca for the past two years. Its success is undeniable. Minor disagreements are forgotten in the matter of church belief, the teachings of Christ and the betterment of the community, spiritually and civically, being the matter of importance. Rev. C. A. Richards has been the pastor at the head of the movement, which is believed by many to be the life saving of the church of today.

### SABETHA CHURCHES.

The Congregationalists claim the first regularly organized church of Sabetha, and by the method of considering Albany the mother of Sabetha, their claims are correct if they could not substantiate their claim otherwise. The founders of Sabetha were the founders of Albany. The founders of the Congregational Church of Albany moved to Sabetha and moved their church with them. The Congregational Church of Albany was organized September 26, 1859. The Rev. R. D. Parker was the first pastor, and there were eighteen charter members of the church: Elibu Whittenhall and his family, George Graham, John E. Graham, John Van-Tuyl, Edwin Miller, B. H. Job and their wives; Mrs. Rising, Mrs. Archer, William B. Slosson, Thomas Robbins and John B. Shumway. These names, or those of their descendants, have been identified with the Congregational Church in its history to date. Services had been held for over a year before the actual organization of the church under God's canopy and beneath a tree in the Albany yard of Edwin Miller, whenever the weather permitted. It is scarcely surprising that with such a beginning the church has been nothing but successful from its inception. The Congregational Church was moved to Sabetha from Albany in the summer of 1871, during the pastorate of Rev. Thomas.

Rev. Parker, the original pastor of the church, later became editor of the Manhattan "Telephone," a newspaper long since passed on.

Several of the pastors of the church in Sabetha have become noted. Perhaps the best known is one of the latest incumbents. Rev. C. L. Fisk, who is now head of the Congregational Sunday School Association in Ohio, and his wife, Mrs. Marion Ballou Fisk, who shared with him the labors in the Sabetha field, filling the pulpit during his absences, is a brilliant cartoonist in the Chautauqua and Lyceum field. Mrs. Fisk is the one woman who has kept up chautauqua work whose time has been engaged completely throughout the year. She has appeared in every State in the Union. Her chautauqua work began in Sabetha under the Horner-Redpath people. Their work in Sabetha is still bearing fruit. During Mr. Fisk's pastorate a cigarette was unknown in the town. He built a gymnasium, which all boys, regardless of church affiliations, were welcome to use freely. Their entertainments for church improvement and civic improvement were so unique that city editors sent men to Sabetha to write up the affairs for their metropolitan newspapers. A presentation of Alice Hegan Rice's "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch" attracted such widespread attention that Liebler & Company, who owned the copyright of the plan, sent to the little Nemaha county town to see if their rights had been infringed.

Another interesting pastor of the Congregational Church preceding the Fisks by twenty-five years was A. G. Hogbin. His wife was a co-worker with him. In their effort to build up Sabetha they bought and conducted the Sabetha "Herald" for several years in connection with their church work. Mrs. Hogbin was a daughter of Rev. M. B. Preston, of Centralia. Rev. and Mrs. Hogbin have been retired for several years and are living in Italy. Rev. Charles Beaver is the pastor of the Congregational Church today.

The Methodist Church of Sabetha was organized in 1868 in the Sabetha school house by Rev. F. W. Meyer. It is a church of wealth and ambition and enthusiasm, pursuing modern methods of entertainment and interest for its youthful members. The first church building was erected by Archibald Webb, which, within the past twenty years, has been replaced by a handsome edifice containing theater seats and a fine pipe organ. Several prominent divines have been its pastors, notably, Rev. E. Gill, foster-father of the Rt. Rev. Bishop William A. Quayle, and Rev. Biddison and Rev. C. W. Shaw. Of Rev. Biddison the following tale is told by men who were the mischievous boys in his day. The Rev. Biddison owned two dun ponies that were the envy of all the boys in town. He would lariat them at night out in the open, and it was no rare thing for a boy to borrow a pony for a night ride. One time, Adam Cramer, who was a boy about ten years old, now a contractor with gray hair, borrowed one of the ponies for such a ride. He had done it often before, but this night the enormity of his crime seemed to weigh heavily upon him. When he was three or four miles from

town he became obsessed with the idea that Rev. Biddison was after him on the other pony. He turned for home and rode with a madness surpassing that of Ichabod Crane or Paul Revere. When he reached town he found the other pony peacefully grazing on the lot. He vowed on the spot that he would steal no more rides, and he didn't. No one ever knew whether Mr. Biddison knew of these stolen rides or not. Rev. Biddison filled several pulpits in Nemaha county and if he knew of the pranks of the Sabetha boys he never told it elsewhere. Adam Cramer has been a Methodist in good standing in the church for many years, and has expiated his horseback jaunts long since..

Rev. I. C. Paugh is the pastor of the Methodist Church at Sabetha. His daughter, Miss Delight, stood highest in her class of over 1,000 graduates at Northwestern University, in Evanston, Ill., this spring, and is a brilliant daughter of a scholarly father.

M. J. Boomer, who celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday a few years ago by a post card shower, the surprise being arranged by his daughter, tells of the origin of the Baptist Church. He mentioned Mrs. Mary E. Black as still living. She has since died. Mr. Boomer's post card shower aroused memories.

"One of the letters was from Clara Barton, who for many years was president of the Red Cross Society, and who is known all over the world. Miss Barton was Mr. Boomer's school teacher at Oxford, Worcester county, Massachusetts, over sixty-six years ago. Another letter was from Mrs. A. S. Tower, who was a schoolmate of Mr. Boomer sixty-seven years ago. Mrs. Tower now lives at La Crosse, Wis.

Mr. Boomer came to Sabetha in 1873. He helped pay for the original Baptist Church, which, by the way, was the first church building erected in Sabetha. Mr. Boomer says Mrs. Mary L. Black, of Sabetha, is the only one of the original members of the Baptist Church left. This church was organized in 1871, and Mr. Boomer did not come here until two years later. The bell now being used in the Sabetha school house was used on the original Baptist Church in Sabetha. Mr. Boomer was twenty years superintendent of the Baptist Sunday school.

Mr. Boomer says when he first came to Sabetha the old or eastern part of the town was contending with the present business section for the mastery. Campbell Tarr, father of the late Hamilton Tarr, had a store in the eastern or old part of Sabetha. On the store front he had a sign which announced that the store was located in "Sabetha proper." The old hotel was located where John Lanning's residence is now. Mr. Boomer has always lived at Fairview. He owns a farm near there. But he has for many years visited Sabetha regularly and is known here by nearly everybody.

Mr. Boomer was for many years a member of the board of trustees of Ottawa University at Ottawa, Kans. He was a member of the Baptist State Mission Board fourteen years. For ten years he was a member of the board of trustees of the Hiawatha Academy.

Of the pastors of the Baptist Church, it is possible the most beloved was Rev. Biggart, who was almost a missionary pastor in many of the pioneer towns of northeast Kansas. He died a few years ago, and his children, remembering with affection their life in Sabetha, have been planning to go back there to live. The Sabetha Baptists have a pretty church edifice and a parsonage which is one of the pleasantest homes in the city. The present pastor is Rev. Robert Church, who is an excellent architect as well as pastor.

Two churches of interest and with modest aspirations are the United Brethren, with Rev. George Krebs as pastor, and the Church of the Brethren, with Rev. Yoder as pastor. The Church of the Brethren has a sister church in the Rock Creek neighborhood. Retired from active service, but occasionally taking the pulpit, is Rev. Ephraim Cober, of Sabetha.

Rev. Yoder, on September 10, 1915, announced in the church the nineteenth birthday anniversary of Rev. Ephraim Cober, of Sabetha, who celebrated his natal day, September 5, by preaching to the congregation of the Rock Creek Brethren Church. Like the Great Teacher, Mr. Cober was also a carpenter, and with his own hands he built the Rock Creek Church twenty-eight years ago, dedicating it and preaching on the site it occupied continuously for thirty-five years. A birthday party was given at the John Zug home in honor of Mr. Cober's birthday. Only a few relatives and neighbors were in attendance. Mr. Cober came to Kansas the year of the centennial for Mrs. Cober's health, as she was thought to be suffering from consumption. Mrs. Cober is living, healthy and happy, and they will celebrate their sixty-eighth wedding anniversary in November on her eighty-third birthday. Their son, the late Jacob Cober, a former editor of the "Courier-Democrat," died in Kansas City a few years ago, and his widow, Mrs. Laura Cober, lives near his parents in a home that Grandfather Cober built. Mrs. Ham Wasmund, of Sabetha, is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cober.

The Church of the Brethren, with Rev. R. A. Yoder as pastor, is one of the most successful churches of the county. A series of lectures given by the churches of Sabetha and Rock Creek have been gratefully appreciated the past year. It is progressive, with a fine membership.

As the Community Church of Seneca is one of the most interesting in these progressive days, so is the Amish or German Apostolic Christian Church of Sabetha the most interesting in the eastern part of Nemaha county. The members of the church dress simply, as do the Mennonites of western Kansas. They are the kindest and gentlest of German people, whose brotherly love, help and intercourse is a matter of great admiration to their more worldly neighbors.

The Amish are well-to-do and successful as a result of industry, thrift, right living and unfailing faith in their religious belief. If there is a better belief or one of truer Christianity than that professed by the Amish, it has never come to light. The Amish people believe that one



should never buy an article for which he can not pay upon instant demand. A debt is against the theory of honesty. They teach that so long as he has health, one should work, regardless of his worldly welfare. The theory is borne out by the fact that Satan finds work for idle hands, and that in good, honest industry lies the only real happiness. They believe absolutely in the simple life as to dress. This is so that those families who are financially able may not dress in so elaborate a manner as to arouse jealousy and envy in the hearts of those less fortunate. These are a few of the good ideas taught by the Amish or Apostolic Christian Church. The Amish Church is really very much like a big family. They go to church early in the morning on Sundays. They remain there and eat their lunch, have church again in the afternoon and then go home. The Sunday lunch consists usually of bread, butter, coffee and preserves. Around the church are well built sheds. All the horses are unharnessed, turned into their stalls and fed and rested while their owners are at church. If any visitors come to Sabetha to visit the Amish folk, there is immediately held a church service, that everyone may become acquainted. Every few weeks a part of the Amish people from Sabetha go to visit their Amish friends in Illinois, Indiana, Wabaunsee county, Kansas, and other parts of Kansas and different States. In Northern Iowa there is a big colony of Amish. In most of the Middle Western States there are colonies of Amish. And every community which contains them is to be congratulated. There is a difference in the Amish and Mennonite beliefs. The Mennonite resembles the Lutheran teachings, whereas the Amish profess the faith of the Christian Church. The Amish throughout this section of Nemaha county are Swiss and German. The Mennonites in Kansas are chiefly Russians. The Amish here came in great part from Baden and that section of Germany. The German Mennonites came more from the northeastern section of Germany and from Holland. In many things the two beliefs are similar. They are both industrious, thrifty, fair and live simply. But there is no scrimping. Sabetha merchants say that the Amish people are among their best customers. None but the best will do for them, with nothing flashy. Their trade is always cash. The Amish never forget their relatives in the old country. Every few weeks someone sends over to his native land for some relative left behind. They are brought to America to taste the joy of farming a hundred acres of land—when in Germany they farmed one acre. When they arrive the entire Amish community gathers in the church to welcome them, and give thanks for their safe arrival. Sometimes, when it is impossible to gather at the church, the little services are held at the homes in town. There seems to be a spirit to take the Lord intimately and affectionately and reverently into all their rejoicings and social gatherings. It is a beautiful faith. Their little cemetery adjoins the country church, where headstones of simple white wood are painted with the names of the dead, no preference being shown. The Amish preachers serve without

pay, making their livelihoods as farmers and serving their Lord as ordained ministers for love of Him and of their people. Rev. John Plattner has been at the head of the Amish community here for many, many years, a gentle, lovable man, admired and loved and respected by all the community as sincerely as by his own people.

In connection with the churches of Sabetha, Alfred Stokes, the town sexton, believed to be the oldest sexton in point of continuous service in Kansas, should be mentioned. Alfred Stokes has served as sexton of the Sabetha cemetery continuously for forty-two years, and is still serving. The cemetery is one of the most perfectly kept burying grounds in Kansas. There are about 400 graves in the free burying ground, which are kept in perfect order. The cemetery has no potter's field and no nook or corner which is neglected. The ground is owned by the city of Sabetha. Alfred Stokes began his services as sexton of Sabetha in 1872. Sadly enough, the first grave he dug was for a son. The Sabetha cemetery then consisted of but two acres. The two acres were donated to the city by a man named Goodpasture in 1856. The donor, Goodpasture, does not figure further in the history of Sabetha.

In the pioneer class on Sunday, April 3, 1910, the question was asked by T. K. Masheter, "How many were at church and Sunday school in Sabetha forty years ago this morning?" (Sunday, forty years ago, was April 3.) Henry Riffer, C. Fulton and T. K. Masheter responded. Mrs. Conrad could say that forty years ago she lived a mile west of Capioma. O. O. Marbourg came to Sabetha July 8, 1870, and attended church at Albany the following day. Other members of the class have been here from seven to thirty years. The late J. E. Black came here June 10, 1870, and Mrs. Black, June 22, 1870. Among other recollections of forty years ago I recall that Mr., or rather Comrade, John Palmer has lived all this time in the same house. Daniel Stonebarger lived on his farm adjoining Sabetha on the south in 1870, and was called an old citizen then. John Beamer, east of the city, came for his second trial of the West from Ohio in the spring of 1870, and has lived in the same place since.

### CENTRALIA CHURCHES.

Centralia has come nearer keeping her number of churches down to the needs of a town of 1,000 inhabitants than the average small town or even city. Centralia has but three churches, all fairly well patronized. The Methodist people organized a church as early as 1867, worshipping in private houses for four years, when a church building was erected and Rev. T. B. Gray put in charge.

In 1868, the Congregational Church was started with a membership of twelve. A church building was erected in 1871, with a capacious auditorium. Centralia was the home of Rev. Levi C. Preston, whose children are among the Nemahans who have made names in the world.

Mr. Preston came to Centralia for his health and conducted a farm that was the model for many miles surrounding. He planted orchards and gardens. He frequently supplied the Congregational pulpit. His daughter, Flora, became the wife of Rev. A. C. Hogbin, mentioned in another part of this history, while May is the wife of the celebrated Edwin E. Slosson, associate editor of the New York "Independent Magazine." Rev. Preston has been dead many years. Mrs. Preston makes her home with Mr. and Mrs. Slosson in New York City.

Rev. J. E. Everett is now pastor of the Congregational Church; Rev. E. O. Raymond, of the Methodist Church. The Holiness sect has a church in Centralia, and Christian Science meetings are held at the home of Mrs. Catharine Meyers.

In a district where the business is purely agricultural, as in Nemaha county, the entertainment for the communities devolved almost entirely on the churches.

The masquerade Halloween social at the Congregational Church was a jolly or a spooky affair, which ever way you see it. You were met at the door by ushers, who took you through winding dimly lighted hallways, in which stood ghosts and goblins, up the stairs and through the main church, in which were no lights, but many scarecrows, and down the back stairs into the Sunday school room, where the festivities were on. There were over 180 attended and many of them were masked. The judges gave little Helen Wilson the prize, a Bible. She was costumed as a fairy. It was great fun guessing who the different maskers were. One "family" kept nearly everyone guessing for a long time. There were a number of beautiful costumes as well as many grotesque. Miss Margaret Everett wore a beautiful old-fashioned dress that Mr. Everett's mother wore them when they came to Kansas in 1850.

### WETMORE CHURCHES.

Wetmore is the one Nemaha county community to consistently support an Episcopal church. The Wetmore churchmen have not a resident pastor, but are served fortnightly by the resident pastor of Atchison, and their faithfulness is a matter of remark in many neighboring communities. Their church is regularly supported and has been supported since the early days. Through combining with the Atchison church they have had the advantage of eminent divines which so small a congregation or village could not have otherwise secured. The Atchison rectors have been rigidly regular in their Wetmore charge. Wetmore has had more than one prominent bishop serving at her fortnightly church services in this way. The late Rt. Rev. Bishop Leonard was one who made regular visits to the Wetmore church. He became bishop of Utah. The Rt. Rev. Francis E. Brooke, bishop of Oklahoma, was another. Rev. John Henry Hopkins, one of the brilliant men of

the Episcopal church, was a third. The Wetmore church is now in charge of the Rev. Otis E. Gray, and has, within the past week, installed an \$800 pipe organ in its little church edifice.

The Methodists were the first people to open church services in Wetmore. In 1872 the organization was effected and the church building erected, unusually prompt preparation. The priest of the Wetmore St. James' Catholic Church is Father Alphonse, O. S. B., Atchison; Grace Church, Episcopal, Rev. Otis Gray, Atchison; Baptist, Rev. Joseph James, Wetmore; Methodist Episcopal, Rev. Lewis Weary, Wetmore.

It was in Wetmore and Sabetha that the Rev. Edward Gill served when his foster son, called Willie Gill, was a Nemaha county boy who has become one of whom the county is justly proud. Willie Gill was so called during his boyhood. When he attained young manhood, he took the name of his father Quayle, and is now known to the world as the Rt. Rev. William A. Quayle, prominent bishop of the Methodist church, than whom none is more prominently in the public eye for the good works he has done and for his brain and literary talent as well. William A. Quayle was an orphan from earliest childhood, and was brought up by his uncle, Rev. E. Gill, by whose name he was generally known. Rev. Gill had no other children during his residence in this section, and Willie was his constant companion. When Rev. Gill lived in Sabetha, his home was on Roosevelt avenue which did not bear the name it does now, and was not noted as the children's street. He rode around a considerable circuit as did most country Methodist ministers in those days, according to the instruction and example of their great disciple, John Wesley. Rev. Gill preached at Wetmore, Capioma, Maple Ridge and Harmony as well as in Sabetha. The roads were in many places little more than bridle paths, but on all these, weekly, and sometimes, tri-weekly expeditions for carrying the gospel to the isolated, Willie accompanied his uncle. Thus he was early imbued with religious teachings.

Willie Gill or Quayle, it is recalled by Mrs. M. H. Keeler, was a timid, little boy with red hair and freckles. Many a time had Mr. Gill and the boy stayed all night at the Hochstetter place, which was the name and home of Mrs. Keeler before her marriage. And by the way, Mr. Gill married Mr. and Mrs. Keeler. At one time, Mrs. Keeler recalls there was "a big doings" in Sabetha, and her family had come up to it. A storm arose. They reached home shortly after midnight, but Rev. Gill and Willie were there before them, and they were found comfortably asleep in bed upon the arrival of the family.

Dr. Isaac Magill of Corning recalls Willie Gill as one of his intimate boy friends. Isaac looked anxiously forward to the preaching days which brought a visit from his friend, and great was the mutual rejoicing when the weather was so bad that Willie was permitted to remain at the Magill home while Rev. Gill continued his rounds, alone.

Several years ago, after Dr. Magill was a practicing physician at Corning, and when Rev. William A. Quayle was president of Baker university, the latter visited Corning as a lecturer and was entertained at Dr. Magill's home. Dr. Magill did not connect the name of Quayle with any one he knew, but in the course of conversation, Rev. Quayle mentioned Mr. Gill. Dr. Magill made inquiries as to what became of Willie Gill. Mr. Quayle looked amused and quizzed Dr. Magill for sometime as to his acquaintance with Willie Gill. Dr. Magill recalled their oldtime friendship and fun; and finally there was mutual amusement and pleasure when Mr. Quayle announced that he and the little, shy, redheaded Willie Gill were the same.

Rev. Gill was at that time preaching at Junction City or Salina or one of those middle Kansas towns. He was later presiding elder of the district west of here, and also of the Kansas City district.

The Wetmore Baptists organized a class in 1872, the Methodists sharing their church with them on occasion and, at times, the meetings were held in the homes of the church members. The first Baptist minister who officiated for a considerable period was Rev. Thomas Rolfe. At other times the society sent different men in spasmodic periods. Rev. Father Bagley was the first Catholic priest to conduct service at Wetmore while the Rev. E. H. Bailiff was the first Methodist preacher, followed shortly by Rev. E. Gill, foster father of Rev. W. A. Quayle, as told. The Methodist church is the most successful in the community, and is under the charge of Rev. Louis Weary. Mr. Weary preaches also at Bethany and several country churches between Sabetha and Wetmore.

### ONEIDA CHURCHES.

Oneida has four churches. The first one organized was the Christian church, about the only one in the county and a thriving church. A building was erected immediately for its occupancy, the pulpit being successfully filled, fortnightly, by Chancellor Oeschger, of Lincoln, Neb.

Oneida was as different in her church organizations as in her general foundation. The Presbyterians built a church, and later the Methodists organized, using the Presbyterian building for services. Today the Methodist Church is built, and the pulpit is occupied by Rev. N. J. Adams. The Methodist and Christian Churches are the only ones now in use.

The Baptists held their first religious services in Corning under Rev. J. S. Henry, who gave Corning the only religious services in her early days. The Baptists, however, did not erect any edifice nor effect a permanent organization.

## CORNING CHURCHES.

Corning churches now are: Presbyterian Church, Baptist Church, United Brethren Church and Methodist Church.

In 1878, the Methodists organized in the school house with twenty-six members and Rev. Biddison in charge. Rev. Biddison served in many pulpits throughout the county, notably in Sabetha, where a story is related of his incumbency there, in previous pages. Mr. Biddison and Rev. Gill were so long pastors in Nemaha county, in various locations that they are regarded quite as Nemaha county men. The Methodists built a frame church in Corning in 1879 at an expense of about \$700.

The Presbyterians did not have much foothold generally in Nemaha county, but in Corning, they managed to get together to the number of about twenty, and organized a society, of which Rev. E. Todd was pastor. Rev. F. O. Hesse is the Methodist minister of Corning, the year of 1916.

## CHURCHES OF OTHER TOWNS.

During the past winter, the town of Goff had been without a minister for several weeks, for one reason or another. After the spring conference of 1916, Rev. J. W. Jones was appointed pastor of the church at Goff. Goff has also a Christian Church. Bern is notably Presbyterian leaning. In the smaller towns, the Methodists or Catholics have the largest following, while the still smaller communities and country churches are served by ministers from the largest town nearby. It is a rare thing that a preacher does not supply, more or less regularly, at least two pulpits in his community.

The Holiness sect has a small following in some vicinities, notably in Woodlawn and Centralia. But there is not a community in the county, however small, that is not faithfully attended by either the Protestant or Catholic pastors of nearby towns.

The following is from a traveling preacher in Kansas, written in 1866 and 1868:

"You will find when you come that the land you want is just about double the price you expected it to be. This year wheat and oats are good; corn good in some places, in others burnt up with drought. When no drought, no chintz-bug, no grasshopper, wheat will average twenty-five bushels to the acre, and corn, sixty; but you can put in and attend two acres here as easily as one at home. Water-melons—nobody steals them (the only thing they don't steal out here), for everybody has them by the wagon load. Peaches do well, selling now at fifty cents to \$1.00 per bushel. Not sure whether apples will do well here or not. Grapes do well; have seen some very fine specimens.

"Climate.—In July the hottest I ever experienced; frequently 110 in the shade; but even then nights cool and pleasant

Water.—In July wells nearly all went dry; no running streams: from stinking pools water (they called it water) was hauled miles. Very little good water anywhere, at any time; all hard limestone. In July everything seemed to be almost burnt up. Lately been great rains; country flooded; day before yesterday swam my horse over streams that three weeks ago were as dry as powder-horns; won't need any more rain here till next summer.

"Sickness.—Very little except ague, and there are enough castor-oil-beans in this county to physic all the ague and all other malaria out of all the stagnant pools in the State; many fields of five, ten or fifteen acres of these beans.

"Coal is pretty good and plenty of it at Fort Scott and south of that; none fit to use any place in the State.

"Wood is very poor, very dear, and very little of it anywhere.

"Society, in some places, is as good as it is East; in others, as bad as thieves, cut-throats, Indians, old rebels and land sharks can make it.

"Wages, for all kinds of work, lower than in the East; the "hired hand" has to work harder, earlier, later, live poorer, and get less for it, than any place in the East.

"My Advice.—If you have no more money than will bring you here, stay at home. If you have \$1,000 or \$2,000, and are willing to work hard and live like a beggar, you can come here and soon be rich.

"In the summer of 1866, after the close of the war, the brigade to which we belonged, on its march to Ft. Kearney, Neb., and back, passed through the village of Seneca, Kans., then having a population of less than 300 persons.

"We preached three sermons, setting forth as distinctly as possible our religious views, and the reasons of the hope that is in us. The result was, that before leaving the place on Monday morning, enough was subscribed by our friends to purchase three lots for a church.

"The work thus commenced finally culminated in the erection of a beautiful stone church, costing some \$9,000, Brother J. H. Ballou, now of Lawrence, in the meantime, having been associated with the society as pastor a year and a half, and assisting greatly in securing the result.

"It was to assist in the dedication of this church, the first erected by the denomination in the Prairie State, and to render what aid we could in paying off a heavy debt, that we accepted an invitation from the good people there to spend our vacation with them.

"We reached Seneca, August 3, and were very kindly received by our former acquaintances. We found the place very much improved since we were there, the population having more than tripled. New business blocks had gone up, fine dwellings been erected, a school house costing \$15,000 completed, and business generally very lively. Next to Atchison it is the largest and most stirring town in northern Kansas. Its location is charming and delightful, being situated on the Nemaha river, which, together with one of its branches, nearly encircles the

town. It is the county seat of Nemaha county, and is seventy miles west of St. Joseph, Mo., and the present terminus of the St. Joe & Denver railroad.

"The Universalist Church is the first church built in the place, which, of course, indicates a large, liberal element there. The Catholics have a small place of worship, the Congregationalists have just commenced the erection of a small church, and the Methodists own a parsonage.

"Our church is 39x56, is built of a fine quality of stone—found in great abundance near the town—and cost not far from \$9,000. The style is very neat and tasty, it is well finished and furnished, and very pleasantly located.

"Brother Ballou has been the only settled pastor, and while there, did an excellent work for our cause—not only in Seneca, but the country around. He has many warm friends in that part of the State who appreciate his labors among them.

"The time set for the dedication of the church was Sunday, August 28. Invitations were sent to several of our preachers in Kansas, and other States to be present and assist in the dedication exercises, but, strange to say, not one invited came. Each had some excuse to offer, though none of them, we believe, had to bury their fathers or marry their wives. But the Lord did not leave us alone to do the work. He put it into the hearts of Brothers Eaton and Bishop, of Iowa, to make their timely appearance at this feast, even though they had not been bidden. Five sermons were preached during the meeting—Brothers Eaton and Bishop two each, and one by the writer.

"The debt on the church was \$4,800, a very large sum for a small parish to raise and which had been very generous in its previous subscriptions. But it had been decided to pay off the debt, as large as it was, at this meeting. So an appeal was made to the people present to give generously of their means for this cause. The following were the largest subscriptions:

"C. G. Scrafford, \$1,250; D. B. McKay, \$600; A. Wells, \$500; J. P. Taylor, \$500; J. H. Peckham, \$300; J. N. Cline, \$150; J. Van Leon, \$100.

"Several gave \$50 and \$25 each. Others gave according to their means, until the amount reached \$4,000. And before we left our friends, on Tuesday, we had the satisfaction of knowing that the full amount of the debt had been raised, and the church was free from encumbrance. We have never known of such a generous outpouring of funds before, on such an occasion. There seemed to be a determination to settle up the account to the last cent, and every one strained every nerve to secure this end, and they were victorious, and happy, because victorious.

"We visited several other places in the vicinity of Seneca, and preached the doctrines of the great salvation. Among these we mention



Hiawatha, Centralia, Wetmore, America, and Frankfort. We found warm friends in all of these and other places. At Hiawatha, Brother Hibbard is preaching a portion of the time. We occupied the Methodist Church, and had a good audience. Here they are talking strongly of building a church. Our excellent brother, Morrill, who gave \$50 toward paying the debt on the Seneca Church, and who lives here, offers to head the subscription with \$1,000.

"We stopped over night with Messrs. Collins and Brady, formerly of Cass county, Illinois, who live near Albany, Nemaha county. They have 1,200 acres of land fenced, 300 of which are planted to corn, the balance is pasture. They have 700 head of cattle, and upwards of 500 hogs. They think Kansas far preferable to Illinois for stock-raising. Their farm is the best we saw, and by the business manner in which they conduct their matters, they cannot help prospering. We enjoyed their kind hospitality very much. In fact, we enjoyed our visits wherever we went, so much so that we shall be tempted to spend another vacation in Kansas sometime. We found generous, warm hearts and welcome homes, and our visit will be long remembered as one of the most pleasant we ever experienced.

"To those of our faith who think of immigrating West, let us say, go to Nemaha or Brown county, Kansas. You can get the choicest land there for from \$5 to \$12 per acre, and then you will be where you can attend your church, and make the acquaintance of those of 'like precious faith.' No better country or people can be found."







Abijah Wells

## CHAPTER XXXIII.

### BIOGRAPHICAL.

**Hon. Abijah Wells.**—History in the aggregate is but the composite results of the doings of men in the mass; whatever is accomplished by the citizenship of a city and county as a whole composes the historical annals of the body politic—all that can be told has been accomplished by men as individuals and making a co-operative effort along their respective lines. The humblest citizen has no doubt had a part in the making of the State—while a few men of prominence stand out as more striking figures, whose deeds are worth recording for the benefit and inspiration of the rising and future generations of the State. In the making of Kansas and Nemaha county and its evolution from a trackless prairie to a land of homes and plenty, some striking leaders are worthy of mention in this volume of Nemaha county historical annals. Judge Abijah Wells, who but a little over a year ago passed to his reward, was a product of the pioneer era of the State, who advanced himself from an humble situation in life to become a leader of his State and the foremost citizen of a great county, of which he was one of the builders. As a jurist, he had few superiors or equals; learned in the law, he founded a widely known legal firm; as a financier, he achieved a competence, which is an indication of shrewd financial ability of a high order; deeply religious, he devoted much of his time to the cause of Christianity; as a kind husband and father, he reared a family which have become famed for their individual accomplishments of its members in the nation. It is meet, therefore, that a review of the life of Abijah Wells be inscribed in this volume.

The late Abijah Wells was born in Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, June 12, 1840. He was a son of William R. and Betsy (Skinner) Wells, both of whom were natives of Orange county, New York, and descended from old American families of English descent. The parents of Judge Wells were married in Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, whither their respective parents had removed from New York, and they resided there from the date of their marriage, June 2, 1832, until 1845, when William R. Wells decided that the great West afforded better opportunities for amassing a competence than could be found in his home community. Accordingly, he migrated to La Salle county, Illinois, in 1845, and was one of the pioneers of this county. He remained in La Salle county, Illinois, until the spring of 1857, when he removed with

his family to Nemaha county, Kansas. The year previous he had visited Kansas, and the new territory so impressed him that he decided that the vast prairies, as yet unpeopled, was the place for him to make his fortune and would give his children an opportunity to grow up with a great State in the years to come. He returned to Illinois in the fall of 1856 in time to vote for John C. Fremont for President, and was thus one of the original voters of the Republican party. In the spring of 1857, he crossed the intervening country and made a settlement on a tract of unbroken prairie land three miles south of Seneca. Here he built his first plain home in Kansas. Not long after his arrival in Nemaha county, William R. Wells conceived the idea of founding a city in what was the exact geographical center of Nemaha county. With others who were interested he purchased a large tract of land and laid out the town of Wheatland, with the idea of making it the county seat. His dreams came to naught, however, and the plan of building a city miscarried, principally because of the diversion of the overland trade route through Seneca and its subsequent selection as the county seat.

William R. Wells prospered in the land of his adoption, however, and he became prominently identified with the early and formative period of Nemaha county history, and was a member of the first board of county commissioners of Nemaha county. He lived on his farm until 1864, and then retired to a home in Seneca. In June of 1882, he and his wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in Seneca, and six years later, July 18, 1888, his faithful helpmeet died. William R. Wells died December 16, 1893. Although a member of the Congregational church at the time of his removal to Kansas, William R. Wells became one of the founders of the Methodist Episcopal church in Seneca, and remained an active and influential member of this church until his demise. His activity in behalf of the free State movement in Kansas was noticeable, and is a matter of history. He filled the office of township trustee several terms, served as justice of the peace and was a member of the first board of county commissioners of Nemaha county.

The earlier education of Abijah Wells was obtained in the district schools of La Salle county, Illinois, and he was a lad of seventeen when the family settled in Kansas. Not long after he came to Kansas he enrolled as a student in Centralia College, and later attended the first session of the State Agricultural College at Manhattan, Kans., this institution at that time being noted for the excellent faculty maintained. His ambition when a youth had been to become a lawyer, with this end in view, he entered the office of Judge J. E. Taylor, where he pursued his legal studies until his admission to the practice of law in 1866. He practiced his profession in Kansas continuously for nearly fifty years, the only exception being when he became a member of the Kansas court of appeals.

Early in 1881, he became the editor and proprietor of the Seneca

"Tribune." His talents as a journalist and manager here were shown to the best advantage, and he rapidly made the "Tribune" one of the best newspapers in northern Kansas, and created a profitable business property. He sold the "Tribune," however, during the same year to A. J. Felt and devoted his entire time to his legal business and his official duties in various capacities. The law firm of Wells & Wells, started in 1866 by Judge Wells and his brother, Frank Wells, and his son, Frank, at a later date, in time became one of the best known law firms of northern Kansas, and has always done an extensive business. The legal business of this institution is carried on at present by Ira K. Wells, who became the Junior partner of the firm upon the removal of Frank Wells to Oklahoma City.

The political, judicial and official career of Judge Wells was a remarkable one, and is the best evidence of his pronounced ability and powers of leadership among men. He became a leader of wide influence, who was noted for his integrity and upright conduct in every official capacity where he was chosen to serve by his faithful and loyal constituents. During his whole life he was an active supporter of Republican party principles, and became one of the party's widely known leaders throughout the West. His first office was that of county superintendent of public instruction, to which he was chosen in 1863. In 1866, he was elected clerk of the district court, and after holding that office for one year, he was elected registrar of deeds, and filled that position one term. From 1874 to 1881, he again served as county superintendent of education in Nemaha county. Vigorous and capable, he was diligent and progressive in his administration of the public school system of Nemaha county, and raised the schools to a higher plane as a result of his endeavors in the educational field. Upon the expiration of his term as county superintendent, he proceeded to devote his time and talents exclusively to his growing law practice with such signal success that he was called to a seat on the Kansas Court of Appeals bench in 1896, and represented the eastern division of the northern department of this court, and was the only Republican on the State ticket to receive a majority at the polls during that memorable year. He served as judge of the Court of Appeals with distinction and honor during the life of this court, and on its dissolution in 1901, he returned to Seneca and resumed the practice of law. Judge Wells served two terms as mayor of Seneca, and was a member of the Seneca board of education for a number of years. It is also worthy of note that Judge Wells was appointed postmaster of Seneca in 1884, but resigned because of the press of his other affairs, Justus H. Williams succeeding him as postmaster.

In a material sense, Judge Wells was accounted one of the most successful financiers and business men of Nemaha county and Kansas. He foresaw the inevitable rise of land values, and early began to invest his surplus earnings in real estate and farm lands, and at the time of his demise, was an extensive realty owner in Nemaha county. He also

owned ninety acres of land within the corporate limits of Oklahoma City, which he purchased as an investment. He was markedly successful in banking pursuits, and was connected with the National Bank of Seneca as a director and vice-president for several years. Beginning life as a poor boy, he was essentially self made and rose from comparative poverty to become one of the wealthiest men of his day. The fact that he amassed considerable wealth honestly and with the exercise of inherent financial talents and good business judgment redounds to his everlasting credit; he was noted and admired for his straightforward methods of doing business, and his universal fairness in dealing with those with whom he came in contact.

The married life of Judge Wells was an exceedingly happy one, and began October 18, 1866, at which time he espoused in wedlock, Miss Loretta C. Williams, a daughter of Capt. A. W. Williams, of Sabetha, Kans. This marriage was blessed with six children, who have grown to maturity, namely: Frank, of the law firm of Keaton, Wells & Johnson, of Oklahoma City, Okla., and who served four years as county attorney of Nemaha county, and after his removal to Oklahoma City was selected as one of the city commissioners to formulate the plans for a commission form of city government; Arthur, died at the age of two years; Ira K., a review of whose life career is found in this volume; Elsie, who became a teacher in the Seneca public schools, and died September 4, 1897; Maud W., the wife of Robert E. Deemer, a merchant of Lincoln, Neb., and a veteran of the Spanish-American war; William A., an architect of exceptional promise and ability, of Oklahoma, whose plans for the Oklahoma county court house were accepted strictly on merit, and who was the architect of the Colcord building of Oklahoma City, one of the finest office buildings of the United States, and Roland, who is located on a ranch in Sherman county, Kansas, and is extensively engaged in raising cattle. The mother of these children was born in Greenville, Green county, Wisconsin, March 5, 1847, and is a daughter of Arthur William and Mary Angeline (Nordyke) Williams, of English and Scotch ancestry.

Capt. A. W. Williams was one of the well known figures of the pioneer period of Nemaha county history. He was born in Rochester, N. Y., March 21, 1818, and died in November, 1886, on his farm, south of Seneca. His parents removed from New York to Canada when he was but a boy and he was there reared to young manhood and learned the trade of a carpenter. In the early days of the settlement of Green county, Wisconsin, he located in that county, and was married to Mary Angeline Nordyke, who was born in Vienna, Ohio, June 7, 1826. After their marriage in Iowa, Mr. and Mrs. Williams lived in Green county, Wisconsin, until their removal to Iowa in 1856. They spent the winter in Iowa, and in the following spring migrated westward to Kansas, and made settlement on the Sabetha townsite. Mr. Williams became the owner of the land where the city of Sabetha now stands, and resided in



Sabetha until 1872, engaged in keeping the tavern and also following his trade of builder and carpenter. The Williams Hotel was situated directly upon the old overland stage route and he also maintained a stage station, at which the relay horses were kept ready for changing. He also farmed such of his land as was not taken for the townsite. At the outbreak of the Civil war, Mr. Williams offered his services in defense of the Union, and was elected captain of Company D, Eighth Kansas infantry. He served with distinction, and then took up the peaceful avocation of a citizen after the close of the war. He served as postmaster of Sabetha for several years, and was a leading citizen of that city until his removal to Seneca in 1872. He was engaged in the hardware business in Seneca for some years, and later settled on his farm, two miles south of the county seat, where he resided until his demise. The following children were born to Arthur W. and Mary Angeline Williams: Justus, former postmaster of Seneca, and now residing at Riverside, Cal.; Mrs. Abijah Wells, Mrs. Eliza Masheter, of Sabetha, deceased; Angus and Rosabelle died young; Mrs. Mary E. McGill died in California; Charles, living in California; Mrs. Olive Himrod, New Jersey. The mother of these children was born in Ohio, removed with her parents to Iowa, and died in California in 1908.

Judge Wells was a member of the Universalist denomination, and was one of the organizers of the Universalist church of Seneca, in 1865. He became widely known in Universalist circles throughout Kansas and the West, and served for twenty-five years as president of the Kansas Universalist convention, holding that important position at the time of his demise. He was a Mason of high degree, and had attained the Royal Arch and Knights Templar degrees in the order; served as worshipful master of Seneca Lodge, No. 39, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and as high priest of the chapter and as eminent commander of Seneca Commandery, No. 39. He was also a charter member of Nemaha Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he had passed all the chairs and was the last surviving charter member who held his membership continuously since the organization of the lodge in 1866. He was also affiliated with the Knights and Ladies of Security.

The demise of this illustrious Kansan occurred at Los Angeles, Cal., March 1, 1915, at the home of his son, William, whither he had gone for a much needed rest and recuperation. The remains were brought to Seneca and interred in the local cemetery, after appropriate services at the Universalist Church, conducted by Dr. Fisher, of Chicago, long an associate of Judge Wells in religious work. With the departure of the soul of this noble man to the realms from which no man returneth, there passed the leading citizen of the county and city which he assisted in building; his friends were legion; he always commanded the respect and admiration of those who knew him; a man of fine personal appearance, blessed with keen intelligence, which showed in his every action, a dignified bearing—he was a man among men, whose innate reserve

was tempered by a wholesome good nature, which manifested itself when with his associates. As an attorney, he was always true to every trust imposed in him by his clients and business associates; in an official capacity, Judge Wells was firm in an unalterable determination to prosecute the duties placed upon him by the public in the interests of his constituents. As a public spirited citizen, he had few equals, and was always found in the forefront of undertakings which would have a tendency to advance the best interests of his home city and county. The reward which comes to all good men and true, who have been devoted to the highest principles of manhood, in the hereafter, has certainly come to him—inasmuch as his good deeds and upright life far outweighed whatever faults he may have possessed.

**George W. Williams.**—In point of years of residence in Seneca, George Williams is, without doubt, the oldest living pioneer settler, living in Seneca today. A review of the life of Mr. Williams takes one back to the old stage coach days; to the time of the emigrant freighting trains; to an account of the first house built in Seneca, in which he lived when a boy of twelve years of age; the review covers the gradual settlement and development of Nemaha county, the ups and downs of a struggling community and the growth of Seneca from being merely a wide place in the great overland highway to the West into becoming one of the thriftiest and most beautiful cities of northern Kansas. Mr. Williams has seen all of this great development, and has taken an active and substantial part in the work of creating a great county from a wilderness of prairie and wild land.

George W. Williams, capitalist and farmer, Seneca, Kans., was born in a small New Jersey village, March 18, 1848, and is a son of Henry and Mary (Getty) Williams, natives of Vermont and descendants of old New England families. The home of Mr. Williams' parents was in Burlington, Vt., but his father's work as a railroad contractor required that he make his residence in the vicinity of his employment. Henry Williams died in 1848, and his wife departed this life not long afterward. The boy, George, thus left an orphan, was given over to the care of a maiden aunt, who became his guardian and who had gone to live in New Hampshire. However, he varied his early life between the homes of a married aunt (Mrs. John E. Smith) and the maiden aunt who was his rightful guardian. He accompanied the Smith family to Seneca in 1858 and resided with them in the first house built in Seneca. his first work in the village was as "devil boy" on the first newspaper published in Nemaha county by J. P. Cone; his duties on this sheet being to ink the "molasses" rollers, and to assist in operating the old Washington hand press, with which the editions were printed. He remained a member of the staff of Mr. Cone's newspaper until his place was taken by a stronger person, and one whom the editor thought more able and competent to handle the lever of the unwieldy press. About the time his newspaper experience came to an end, his maiden aunt and

guardian came west and located at Irving, Marshall county, Kansas, and he joined his aunt's family there. He remained with his guardian until he completed a course in Illinois College in 1864, and after clerking in a store at Irving for a time, he returned to Seneca and purchased an interest in a hardware store. This was in 1870, and his business venture was a success from the start. His interests have become diversified during the past forty-six years, and he has become one of the largest land owners in northern Kansas, owning thousands of acres of land in the county. Mr. Williams has erected several business buildings in Seneca, and is owner of considerable real estate in the city. He is financially interested in several banking concerns, among them being the First National Bank of Seneca, of which he has been president for over thirty years; State Bank of Belvidere, Neb., and the State Bank of Axtell, Kans., of which he is president. He is a director in several banks.

Mr. Williams has been a stockholder and director of the St. Joseph and Grand Island Railroad Company, for the past three years. He is president of the Brown County Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Morrill, Kans.

Mr. Williams was married, in 1876, to Miss Mary Moss Bryan of Kentucky, a daughter of Milton Bryan, a relative of William Jennings Bryan. To Mr. and Mrs. Williams have been born six children, as follows: Raymond, third child born, killed in a railway accident in 1906; Clara, eldest child, wife of Frank Stuppy, St. Joseph, Mo.; Mrs. Helen Short, living near Chehalis, Wash.; Edith, wife of Art L. Collins, president of the National Bank of Sabetha, Kans.; Rachel, at home with her parents; Milton B., at home and assisting in looking after his father's interests, a graduate of Wisconsin University, Madison, Wis., and filling the post of assistant cashier of the First National Bank of Seneca.

Mr. Williams is allied with the Democratic party, but has never sought political preferment of any kind, although he has taken pleasure in assisting deserving friends to office and has been generally loyal to democratic principles. He is a member of the Congregational church. Despite his great success in business, agriculture and finance, Mr. Williams is the most modest of men who has devoted his entire life to hard work, kept at his tasks long hours, and even of late years, has assiduously devoted his time and energies to looking after his many interests. This modest and brief review is in keeping with the inherent modesty of the man himself.

**Courtney C. K. Scoville.**—When a truly able and gifted man finds his niche in the world of business and finance, his success is certain and sure. There is no miscalculation about the obviousness of his being adapted to his surroundings—a really successful individual becomes more so when he has discovered his proper line of endeavor in which to exercise inherited and developed talents. Real leaders in the various professions and business circles are both born and made—and in the

making, the best attributes of the man himself are developed thoroughly and well, so that there is no half way stop in the upward climb. C. C. K. Scoville, successful financier, author and lecturer of Seneca, Kans., is one of those individuals who found his proper niche, and developed himself and his powers to the fullest extent, and has become a leader of thought and men, and is widely known throughout his home State and the West. Endowed in the beginning with a heritage of pure American birth and ancestry, and gifted beyond the ordinary, he has risen to a high place among men. As a banker he has achieved success, and as a lecturer and orator, he has won more than ordinary renown—yet, withal, he is a modest, unassuming gentleman who loves best to assist in the development of social and civic conditions in his home city. The upbuilding and advancement of Seneca is in his thoughts and ambitions first and foremost of all things, and he is ever ready to take the lead in all matters having for their ultimate object a better and larger city.

C. C. K. Scoville, president of the Citizens State Bank of Seneca, was born at Conneautville, Pa., September 14, 1852, and is a son of Daniel and Eunice P. B. (Kennedy) Scoville, natives of Vermont and New York respectively. On both paternal and maternal sides he is descended from old American families who trace their lineage back to pre-Revolutionary times. His grandfather was Daniel Scoville, whose father was a soldier of the Revolution and fought under Ethan Allen with the famous "Green Mountain Boys."

Mr. Scoville received his education in the public schools of Iowa and Kansas, and studied law in Seneca where the Scoville family removed in 1870. He was admitted to the practice of law in 1878, and practiced his profession for a number of years and then engaged in banking, although he has never abandoned the legal profession entirely. Since his connection with the Citizens State Bank, he has always been the recognized head of the bank. Previous to engaging in the practice of law, he taught school for eight years. While practicing his profession, he served as city attorney, and in 1900, filled the office of mayor of Seneca for a term. He organized the Scoville Exchange Bank in 1888. This concern was successful, and its activities and general scope were broadened materially in 1894, when Mr. Scoville organized the Citizens State Bank as a successor to the private bank. The capital has been increased from \$30,000 to \$40,000, and this bank is now one of the substantial and flourishing financial institutions of northern Kansas.

Mr. Scoville was united in marriage with Miss Mary Lincoln Bergen of Galesburg, Ill., in 1881. Two daughters were born to them, as follows: Josephine, who studied for two years in Washburn College, Topeka, and who graduated from Smith College, Northampton, Mass., is now the wife of Louis S. Treadwell, a business man of New York City, and scion of the well known Treadwell family of New York and

Albany; Frances, a graduate of the Misses Gilman's Seminary for young ladies at Boston, Mass., is now the wife of Walter De Mumm, a member of the famous Rheims firm of wine manufacturers and an officer of the Royal Fusiliers of the German army and a member of General von Hindenberg's staff. Lieut. De Mumm has been twice decorated by the German emperor with the iron cross for personal bravery on the battlefield.

Mrs. Scoville, who was Miss Mary Lincoln Bergen, was a daughter of George I. and Mary Bergen, of Galesburg, Ill. George I. Bergen was one of the leading business men and politicians of his State, and was widely known as an inventor and as a public man. He filled the position of internal revenue collector of the great Peoria district, for many years. He and Abraham Lincoln were close personal friends. Mrs. Scoville enjoys the great distinction of having been given the name, Lincoln, for a middle name by the great Lincoln himself. Mrs. Scoville's mother was a member of the celebrated Field family, from which sprang many of the leading men of the nation, notably Marshall Field, the great Chicago merchant. Mrs. Scoville was a graduate of the High School at Galva, Ill., going from there to the Conservatory of Music at Oberlin, Ohio, from which she graduated in vocal, piano and pipe organ courses with distinction. Mrs. Scoville is well known over Kansas for her musical and literary accomplishments and for the beauty and hospitality of her home in Seneca, where many of the leading people of Kansas and other States have been entertained.

Mr. Scoville's activities outside of his banking interests have been many and varied, and their recital exhibits a remarkable versatility on the part of this able Kansan. He is essentially a self-made man, who has good and just right to be proud of his record, inasmuch as Seneca is rightly proud of him. He is an extensive dealer in farm mortgages, and loans on his own account and believes in keeping his capital continually working in legitimate channels of trade. He has taken an active and general interest in matters political and served his party as chairman of the county central committee during the Blaine and Logan campaign for the presidency. He is interested in his party's success, but has never been an office seeker, preferring to be a worker in the ranks and lending his moral support to such matters. He is a strong and influential supporter of civic, social and commercial enterprises for the benefit of Seneca and Nemaha county, and is president of the Seneca Business Men's Club, an organization of Seneca's business and professional men who are striving for civic and commercial betterment of the city's affairs, and are pushing public improvements to the front. For the past twelve years, he has been a director and treasurer of the Nemaha County Fair Association.

His rise in the banking world is a matter deserving of favorable comment, and he has become known throughout the State among the banking fraternity. During the years 1910 and 1911, Mr. Scoville was

president of the Kansas State Bankers Association. He was one of the organizers and served as the second president of this association. During his lecturing career, which has covered a period of twelve years, he has delivered many addresses upon financial questions pertaining to banking and the legal phases of the profession of which he has made a deep study. Mr. Scoville has the reputation of being the finest and most entertaining, extemporaneous speaker in central and northern Kansas. His broad knowledge and wide reading and continuous study have equipped him especially for this phase of his versatile attainments.

Mr. and Mrs. Scoville are extensive travelers and have seen many parts of the old and new worlds. They made a sight seeing trip to Europe, and visited their daughter, Mrs. De Mumm, in 1914, and were in London when the war between the European powers began. The success of this able gentleman under review can be ascribed to two or three things, either of which is important, and have a decided bearing upon a man's life career: He was rightly born and reared; he was imbued with an indomitable will and a determination to rise in the world, and was willing to make any honorable sacrifice in order to gain his end; lastly, but not least, he has enjoyed the companionship and counsel of a capable and devoted wife. While teaching school, he devoted his spare time to the study of law and equipped himself for the legal profession. While practicing law he discovered that his talents lay in the world of finance, and he determined that banking offered the best means to the attainment of a competence.

**Frank L. Geary**, assistant cashier of the National Bank of Seneca, Kans., was born March 29, 1880, in the city of Buffalo, New York, and is a son of William C. and Nellie R. (Rademacher) Geary, the former of whom was a native of Ohio, and the latter was a native of Holland. William C. Geary was born and reared in the Buckeye State and became a farmer in his younger days. Later he abandoned this vocation, and engaged in commercial business in Buffalo, N. Y., until 1882, at which time he returned to Ohio, and farmed until 1887, when he migrated to Illinois, where he engaged in the live stock business with headquarters at Mattoon, Ill. He removed to Seneca, Kans., in 1890, and continued his live stock operations with considerable success, until his retirement from active business in 1900. He now resides in Frederick, Okla. William C. and Nellie R. Geary reared three children, as follows: Charles W. and Tina A., of Los Angeles, Cal., and Frank L., with whose career this review is directly concerned. The mother of the foregoing children was born in Amsterdam, Holland, January 11, 1846, and immigrated with her parents to New York.

Frank L. Geary was educated in the graded and high schools of Seneca, Kans., and studied law in the office of Judge R. M. Emery. He was admitted to the practice of law in 1901, and for five years, had a lucrative practice in partnership with Judge Emery. For the two years following he served as bookkeeper for the Seneca State Savings Bank

until 1907. He spent the following seven months in Los Angeles, doing abstract work, and then returned to Seneca to accept the position of assistant cashier of the National Bank of Seneca. Mr. Geary is eminently fitted by his legal and financial training to perform the duties of his position, and has a fine reputation as a banking man. He was the first title examiner in the office of the Los Angeles Abstract and Trust Company, a very large concern doing business in the Pacific Coast city.

Mr. Geary was married, in 1903, to Miss Blanche Magill of Seneca, a daughter of J. D. Magill, former clerk of the Nemaha county district Court who died in 1900, his daughter, Blanche, being appointed to fill out Mr. Magill's unexpired term. She was twice re-elected to the office, first in 1900, and again in 1902, and served until 1905.

Mr. Geary is a progressive Republican who believes that reform and purification of the party can best be accomplished by working within the rank and file of the Republican organization, a belief which is generally shared by a majority of the party at the present time. He served as city attorney of Seneca, while filling his duties in connection with the Seneca State Savings Bank, and resigned the office when he went to California. Mr. Geary is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Eastern Star, Knights and Ladies of Security, and the Knights of Pythias.

**Charles F. Schrempp**, lawyer, Seneca, Kans., was born in Hartington, Neb., January 17, 1887, and is a son of Adolph and Sophia (Schweker) Schrempp, natives of Baden, Germany, and Schenectady, New York, respectively. Adolph Schrempp was born in 1847, and emigrated from the fatherland to America in 1853 with his parents. The Schrempp family settled in Wisconsin where Adolph Schrempp was reared to manhood. He there married Sophia Schweker, whose parents emigrated from Schenectady, N. Y., to Madison, Wis. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Schrempp settled in Cedar county, Nebraska, and were pioneer settlers of that county, where they homesteaded a claim and developed it, later removing to Yankton, S. D., and operating a hotel. Mr. Schrempp here met the famous General Custer with whom he struck up a warm friendship which lasted until the lamentable death of the general at the Big Horn Indian massacre. After the massacre, Mr. and Mrs. Schrempp returned to Cedar county, Nebraska, and again took up farming pursuits. The Schrempps lived in Cedar county until the town of Hartington, Neb., was started, and they built the first house in that city. Mr. Schrempp became a contractor and builder in Hartington until his removal to Seneca in the spring of 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Schrempp are the parents of seven children. William, employed on the staff of the Sioux City, Iowa, "Journal;" Albert A., in insurance business in the office of Charles F., Seneca; Charles F., with whom this review is directly concerned, are the three sons of the family. The daughters are as follows: Anna Ottele, Sioux City, Iowa;



Teresa Smith, Sanborn, Iowa; Minnie K. Schrempp, Seneca, Kans.; Frances Schrempp, Seneca, Kans.

Charles F. Schrempp was educated in the Hartington public schools and the parochial schools, graduating from the high school of his native city in 1905. He taught school for two years, and then clerked in a general store for some years and became manager of a general store until 1909. He then went to Omaha, Neb., and worked his way through Creighton University for a period of three years during which he took the night course in law and was then enabled to take the full day course for one year. He graduated from Creighton University with the degree of Bachelor of Laws in 1913. During his period of study, he was employed in the Brandeis department store, and worked his way upward from shoe salesman to floor walker on the main floor in this great establishment, from 1909 to 1912. In the spring of that year he obtained the post of assistant librarian in the Creighton law department, and was enabled to finish his collegiate course in a more satisfactory manner.

Mr. Schrempp's original intention had been to begin the practice of his profession at Eugene, Ore., but having occasion to stop off at Seneca, he was impressed with the appearance of the city and the possibilities it presented for the practice of law, and he decided to cast his lot in this city. He was first associated with Charles Herold as deputy county attorney until March, 1915, and has built up an excellent law practice. He was a candidate for county attorney on the Democratic ticket in 1914. Mr. Schrempp has built up considerable practice in outside courts, and is fast making a reputation for himself as an able attorney, besides taking a prominent part in Democratic politics. He was retained as attorney in the Helser land case, the biggest partition suit ever filed in Nemaha county, and an incident to the settlement of an estate valued at \$200,000, at this writing (1915) has completed the forcing of distribution in the secondary case in Pennsylvania, involving the personal property included in the estate.

Mr. Schrempp is a member of the Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic Church, and is president of the county federation of Catholic societies. He is affiliated with the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association. He is the secretary of the Literary and Lyceum course committee, and is at present secretary of the Seneca Commercial Club. He is a member of the Delta Theta Phi, the National legal fraternity and was instrumental in building up the Omaha chapter.

**Joseph P. Koelzer**, lumber merchant of Seneca, Kans., is one of the native born Kansas pioneers who has lived his whole life within the borders of Nemaha county. The lumber concern of which he is the proprietor is one of the oldest established business concerns of Seneca, and was first started in 1872. J. H. Hatch was the second owner and managed the business until 1897, when it was purchased by the Holton Lumber Company, who operated it for ten years. Mr. Koelzer became



sole proprietor in 1905. The lumber yards cover five city lots and the stock of lumber, builders' material, concrete, etc., is compactly and conveniently arranged so that the extensive trade which the establishment enjoys can be taken care of expeditiously. A concrete building at the front on the main street of Seneca houses the office and three men are employed in the conduct of the business.

J. P. Koelzer was born on a farm at St. Benedict's, three miles northwest of Seneca, April 25, 1871, and is a son of Peter Joseph (born in 1827, and died in December, 1893) and Sophia (Koblitz) Koelzer, born in 1839, natives of German and Austria-Hungary, respectively. Peter Joseph Koelzer emigrated from Germany to America in 1852, and made a settlement in Wisconsin, where he remained until 1859, and then came westward to Kansas and became one of the earliest pioneer settlers in Nemaha county. In the spring of 1859, he made a settlement in the St. Benedict neighborhood, where he homesteaded eighty acres of land, which is still owned by the Koelzer family. The following year was the noted "dry year," when many settlers left Kansas never to return. The Koelzer family was too poor to leave and had to bear the hardships incidental to the crop failure. Time proved that the "dry year" but taught the settlers a lesson, and those who were forced to stay became the prosperous citizens of a great and rich county as the years passed. Peter J. Koelzer learned how best to till the Kansas soil and how to get around the vagaries of Kansas climate and managed to raise good crops as well as to rear a fine family of children. The first home of the Koelzers was a small log cabin built of logs hewn from trees along Wild Cat creek, and consisted of one room. Later another room was added, and in 1870 the family fortunes were such that a neat frame house was built. J. P. Koelzer, the subject of this review, was the first child born in the frame house. Peter Joseph Koelzer became quite well-to-do before his demise, and with the assistance of his faithful wife and his sons to help him till his acreage he became the owner of 280 acres of excellent farm land. As he became old he decided to build a home in Seneca, where he and Mrs. Koelzer could spend their last years in comfortable enjoyment of their good fortune; but, sad to relate, this sturdy old pioneer died on the eve of his removal to the new home. Peter Joseph and Sophia (Koblitz) Koelzer were the parents of thirteen children, as follows: John, lives in Texas; Louis, died in Idaho; Antone, died in Seneca, at the age of twenty-three years; four children died in infancy; Joseph P., with whom this review is directly concerned; Peter, living at Stockton, Kans.; Edward, farming the old home place; Michael, of Electra, Texas; Mrs. Mary Flushe, Muenster, Texas; Mrs. Elizabeth Hoenig, Muenster, Texas. The mother of these children resides with her son, Peter, at Stockton, Kans.

The senior Koelzer assisted in the building of St. Benedict's Church and gave liberally to the building of the magnificent new church, but death called him before the new structure was finished.

Joseph P. Koelzer, the subject of this review, was educated in school district No. 33, at St. Benedict's, and remained on the home farm until he was twenty-four years of age. He then married, and one year later moved to Seneca, where he engaged in the buying and shipping of live stock for a year. He then operated a lumber yard at St. Benedict's for one year and a half. Returning to Seneca, he was employed by the Holton Lumber Company for eight years, and then purchased the yards and stock, in 1905. In addition to his business and property interests, Mr. Koelzer is a shareholder in the Seneca State Savings Bank.

J. P. Koelzer was married in 1894 to Miss Elizabeth Schneider, born in Nebraska, and a daughter of Mathias Schneider, who moved with his family from Missouri to Nemaha county, Kansas. (See sketch). Four children were born to this union, as follows: Albert L., a hustling young business man of Seneca, and owner of the photograph gallery and moving picture show; Fred, a student of electrical engineering in Kansas City, Mo.; Urban and Florence, attending high school in Seneca.

Mr. Koelzer is a Democrat, who has taken an active part in political and civic affairs, having served as city councilman and treasurer of Richmond township. He and the members of his family are affiliated with Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic church in Seneca, and Mr. Koelzer is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association.

**Hon. Rufus M. Emery.**—History is a record of human events in the concrete and the historical annals of any section of the great commonwealth of Kansas is an assembling together in a systematic form an account of what the men and women of that section have accomplished in the way of creating and building up a community of souls working with one accord to a common end. The history of Nemaha county tells the wondrous story of what has been done during sixty-one years of struggle, striving and working toward the creation of a great county. It must likewise tell of the individual accomplishments of the men who have taken part actively in the development of the county—and it is meet, therefore, that a review of the life of Judge Rufus M. Emery, of Seneca, be told, inasmuch as he is a leading citizen of Nemaha county, a successful attorney, widely known jurist and an able financier, who, during the forty years of his residence in Kansas, has won a high place in the community of which he is a very important part. The life story of Rufus M. Emery is a record of the doings of a successful man of affairs, who has won his place in the citizenship of Seneca by virtue of decided ability of a high order.

Rufus M. Emery was born on a farm near Loveland, Clermont county, Ohio, April 23, 1854, and comes of that sturdy American stock who for generations have been tillers of the soil and have assisted in pushing the path of empire ever westward. He is a son of Elisha J. Emery, born in Hunterdon county, New Jersey, September 1, 1814, and a son of Judge John Emery, born and reared in the same county, and



JUDGE RUFUS M. EMERY.



who removed to a farm near Cincinnati, Ohio, when Elisha J. Emery was one year old.

Elisha J. Emery was reared to young manhood on the pioneer farm in Ohio, and took up agricultural pursuits in Clermont county, Ohio, where he married Miss Eliza V. Johnson, born in 1818 in Hunterdon county, New Jersey, and who accompanied her parents to Ohio in 1832, when she was married. Her father in a later day migrated to Cook county, Illinois, where he farmed until his demise. Ten children were born to this marriage of Elisha and Eliza V. Emery, as follows: Almira, who died at the age of eighteen; William A., Samuel A., George J., Edwin D., Jabez N., Eliza C., who married W. H. Fitzwater; Charles F., Rufus M., the subject of this review, and Mary M. Of these children, Almira, William A., George J., Edwin D. and Rev. Jabez N. are deceased. Four of the above sons, William A., Samuel A., George J. and Edwin D., served in behalf of the Union during the Civil war, and two of them, George J. and Edwin D., lost their lives while in the service; George J. was drowned in the Ohio river, and Edwin D. lost his life by drowning off the coast of North Carolina, when the transport, which was carrying him in company with other troops northward after Lee's surrender, is thought to have been wrecked in a storm and sank with all on board. Elisha J. Emery continued his farming operations on an extensive scale and with marked success until 1873, when he disposed of his large realty holdings in Clermont county, Ohio, and located in Seneca, Kans. Having arrived here with a competency, he devoted his remaining years to his investments and was occupied in the capacity of private banker and later as president and one of the largest stockholders of the Bank of Nemaha County, which he was instrumental in establishing in 1882, and served as its president for many years. For several years he became a teacher in the district schools. When still a youth, Eliza V. Emery was born in New Jersey, August 28, 1818; married, December 18, 1836, and died March 8, 1894.

Rufus M. Emery was reared on his father's farm in Clermont county, Ohio, and received his early education in the district schools of his native county. Honest, ambitious and clear headed, he applied himself with so much intelligence and diligence that at the age of seventeen years he became a teacher in the district schools. When still a youth, he mastered the art of telegraphy, and spent two and a half years as a telegraph operator in the employ of the Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis railroad. He then resigned and came directly to Seneca, Kans., arriving here June 15, 1875. Soon after his arrival he began reading law in the office of Simon Conwell, of Seneca, and by hard application and self study, he qualified for admission to the Nemaha county bar in April, 1877. He at once began the practice of his chosen profession in Seneca, and soon won a high place for himself in the legal fraternity of Kansas. Being a young man of fine tact and address, as well as being a forceful and eloquent speaker and a logical thinker, his

rise in the ranks of the legal profession was marked and rapid. During the many years in which Judge Emery has practiced law in Nemaha county and northern Kansas, he has maintained an unsullied reputation for fairness and a strict and abiding respect for the highest principles of his profession. He has adhered closely to professional ethics wherever and whenever he has been called upon to exercise his legal ability and knowledge of the law. Associated with Judge Emery in the law firm of Emery & Emery at present is his son, Rufus M., Jr.

The political and judicial career of Judge Emery has been a noteworthy one, and begins with his election to the office of city attorney, serving also as police judge, councilman and president of the board of education, following which he filled the office of county attorney for three consecutive terms, from 1881 to 1887. Although he had been reared a Democrat, he chose to ally himself with the Republican party, and for many years he has been one of the influential leaders of his party in Nemaha county and Kansas. He was elected a member of the State Senate in 1888, to represent Nemaha and Pottawatomic counties, and held this position for one term of four years. During his senatorial service he served on some of the most important committees of the senate, being a member of the judiciary committee and chairman of the committee of county seats and county lines, as well as a member of the committee on cities of the second class. In 1894, he was elected judge of the Twenty-second Judicial district, comprising the counties of Doniphan, Brown and Nemaha, and gave universal satisfaction while on the bench for four years, from January, 1895, to January, 1899. After the expiration of his judicial term, he again resumed the practice of law.

This esteemed Kansan has not only made an enviable record as a legal practitioner and jurist, but he has succeeded as a financier, whose land holdings and financial interests in Kansas are considerable. When the National Bank of Seneca was organized in 1897, Judge Emery was made president of this concern, which is conceded to be the strongest in Nemaha county, and one of the best managed and safest financial institutions in northern Kansas. He has made finance the subject of diligent study, and to his untiring labor and watchfulness, his genial manners, cool judgment and thorough understanding of finance, the subsequent success of the bank has been largely due.

Judge Emery was married at Corwin, Warren county, Ohio, September 19, 1877, to M. Lou Thompson, daughter of Samuel B. and Martha J. Thompson. The father of Mrs. Emery died in Seneca in 1911 in his ninetieth year. To Judge and Mrs. Emery have been born six children, as follows: Marie, Rufus M., Jr., George B., engaged in the optical business in Seneca, Kans.; Helen M., wife of Eugene Hill, of Seneca; Alice, wife of Roy Voorhees, of Seneca, Kans.; John R., bookkeeper in the National Bank of Seneca.

Judge Emery is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and has attained the Royal Arch and Knights Templar degrees. He has

served as high priest of the chapter and as eminent commander of Seneca Commandery, No. 41. He is also a member of Abdallah Temple, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, of Leavenworth. He is affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and, in 1900, was the grand master workman of the State of Kansas. He has been associated with the Kansas national guard and has held commissions as captain and major in his military organization. Judge Emery has always taken an active and influential part in the civic and social life of Seneca, and has ever been found in the forefront of all movements tending to the advancement of his home city and county; he has served as president of the Seneca Commercial Club, and is universally recognized as a leader among the citizenship of the city.

**F. J. Holthaus**, cashier of the Citizens State Bank of Seneca, Kans. was born in Muhlen, Oldenburg, Germany, Nov. 16, 1876, and is a son of Franz and Josephine Holthaus. His father was a mariner who entered the services of the North German Lloyd Steamship Company, when said company only had two steamers. He retired from this company in 1892, and was pensioned.

After F. J. Holthaus graduated from the schools in his native town, he came to America in 1891, and completed his studies in Denver, Colo., in 1892. He then went to St. Benedict, Kans., and entered the employ of the firm of Blocker & Hoeffler, dealers in general merchandise. In 1893, he went back to Denver, and entered the employ of the "Colorado Journal" (a German daily) and learned the printing trade. In the fall of 1895, he went to Chicago and worked in a print shop which did all the printing for Marshall Field. In the spring of 1896, he went to Cincinnati, and worked at his trade up to July 1, and then went on a European trip. He traveled eight months on the continent in the interest of his coin and stamp business, and also visited his old home. In April of 1897, he came back to America, and went to San Francisco, and entered the firm of Henry Wolking & Co., importers and dealers in fancy groceries. He was with said firm until 1903.

Mr. F. J. Holthaus' marriage was in 1903, to Miss Mary Haverkamp, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Haverkamp, Sr. They have four children: Regina Elizabeth, aged eleven; Clara Josephine, eight; John Francis, five, and Alma Bernardine, two. Ever since his marriage he has lived in Nemaha county, the first year on his father-in-law's farm, five miles north of Seneca. In 1904, he moved to Seneca and entered the employ of the First National Bank as bookkeeper. He was elected assistant cashier of the Seneca State Savings Bank in 1906, when J. H. Cohen bought the controlling interest of said bank and moved it into the First National Bank building. In 1907 he was elected cashier of the Citizens State Bank of Seneca, Kans., and is filling this position in a satisfactory and able manner.

F. J. Holthaus is a dealer and collector of rare coins and stamps. He became acquainted with this hobby when a school boy through

coming across all kinds of foreign coins which his father brought home from his trips to foreign countries. He saw that the coins are serious historical monuments, that they contain in a nutshell the whole history of the countries which issued them, and that by an intensive and comparative study of them ancient history can be made real and living. It is a great asset for a banker to have a numismatic knowledge. His collection at first comprised all classes of coins. In recent years he has specialized in United States and early Colonials, Oldenburg, Munster, Bremen and Papal State, with special emphasis laid upon gold and silver coins. In 1896, on his European trip, he picked up a good many duplicates of rare coins and stamps, and ever since that time he has been a dealer as well as collector. He is an extensive buyer at coin auction sales held in this and foreign countries.

Besides his banking interests, Mr. Holthaus is the owner of a fine farm of 148 acres adjoining the city of Seneca, on which an attractive home is located. He maintains a herd of Holstein cattle.

Mr. Holthaus is a Republican in politics and he and Mrs. Holthaus are members of Sts. Peter and Paul's Church. He is affiliated with the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association and the American Numismatic Association.

**John Fuller.**—The historian or reviewer of this volume of Nemaha county historical annals can think of no more apt term with which to designate John Fuller, pioneer tinsmith, coppersmith and merchant of Seneca, Kans., than to give him the well deserved title of "Sage of Seneca." His has been a life well rounded and useful beyond that of ordinary men; although four score and one years have passed since John Fuller first saw the light of day, his mental vigor is still unimpaired, and of late years he has added to the long list of his accomplishments that of lecturer. A man of broad vision and inherent capabilities, he has become a scientist and teacher and author of more than ordinary renown.

John Fuller was born in Horsham, Sussex county, England, March 25, 1835, and is a son of James and Deborah (Ware) Fuller. James, his father, was a member of the Church of England, and was a general sheet and metal worker, who taught his son, John, his trade. Deborah (Ware) Fuller, his mother, was a Quaker, whose sweet womanly counsel and careful training did much toward making John Fuller the man he is today. One of the touching things which Mr. Fuller remembers concerning his mother is that she made a sampler with her own hands when a girl, and inscribed on it the following original poem:

"Deborah Ware is my name,  
With my Needle, I work the same,  
By this work you can plainly see  
The care my parents took of me."

After learning the trade of sheet metal worker under his father's tutelage, John Fuller worked as a tinman and brazier and general sheet





JOHN FULLER.



metal worker until he attained the age of seventeen years. He then took up the trade of coppersmith, which he followed for sixteen years. In 1868, he journeyed to London, England, and again took up brazery work and also followed sheet iron work while attending the night schools of that great city. Previous to this, he had had little opportunity to secure an education, and his sole reason for leaving home and going to London was to attain an education. Few boys worked as hard as he to attain his ends. Working long hours, he would quit his bench at 5:30 p. m., walk five miles to the night school and study diligently until ten o'clock in the South London Workingmen's College, of which Huxley was the chief patron. The oldest son of Mr. Fuller has the highly prized certificate issued to Mr. Fuller by Huxley, and which has appended to it the patron's own signature. Mr. Fuller remained seven years in London, supporting his family of five children, born in Ashford, Kent, England, and in this great city one of his children was born. In 1870, he immigrated to America, joining a colony which had been formed in England under the auspices of the Mutual Land Immigration Operative Colonization Company, Limited. This company brought numbers of settlers to Kansas, and Mr. Fuller was among those who settled near Goff, Kans. He remained but a year on the farm, however, raising nothing but weeds after much arduous labor. The next year he spent in Centralia, Kans., working at his trade and any honest employment he could procure to keep the wolf from the door. In 1872, he came to Seneca and engaged in the hardware business in partnership with Aaron Roots. This partnership continued for two years, and then Mr. Fuller purchased his partner's interest. As his sons grew up they became associated with their father in the business, which is one of the landmarks of Seneca, under the firm name of Fuller & Son. The Fuller establishment is one of the prosperous and enterprising concerns of Seneca, and has made money for its founder and proprietor.

The most interesting phase of the life career of the "Sage of Seneca" is his career as a scientist and author and his accomplishments in the field of letters is the more remarkable when we learn that he had no school advantages from the time he was nine years old up to his marriage, after which he secured a good, broad education while rearing and supporting his growing family in comfort. In the year 1880, Mr. Fuller wrote and published "The Art of Coppersmithing," an instructive vocational volume, which had a wide sale, and has run through four editions, and was copyrighted in 1904 and in 1911 by its author. This work is a standard text on the coppersmithing art and contains 485 illustrations drawn by Mr. Fuller in order to more clearly bring out the various instructive points. The volume was published by David Williams Company, and bears the distinction of being the only text book on coppersmithing as an art ever issued. The book was greatly eulogized and praised by book reviewers of the country upon its appearance. Mr. Fuller completed another attractive and instructive volume in 1904,

called "A New and Original Treatise on the Geometrical Development of Round and Oval Cones," with easy examples of application. This work is a very fine affair and is intended for the use of beginners in metal working and practical sheet iron and tin plate workers. For many years this versatile patriarch has been a contributor to various newspapers, and has frequently called attention through the newspaper columns to undeveloped and waste resources generally overlooked by the public. He frequently lectures in the Seneca High School on scientific subjects, and the students are always eager to listen to the words of wisdom which fall from his lips. His favorite lecture is "Wealth is Not Worth," and is well worth reading or hearing. He is a deep thinker and a profound philosopher, whose material needs have not been neglected during the many years he has spent in Kansas. From a poor boy, he has become wealthy, and occupies a high place in the esteem of his fellow citizens. It is a fact that at one time this highly regarded and wealthy citizen was in such reduced circumstances during his early struggles in Kansas that, in order to get sufficient solder with which to do his tin work, he gathered up a pile of discarded tin cans, melted them, and thus obtained the solder which he needed so badly.

There is no doubt but that much of the success of John Fuller is really due to the inspiration and assistance of the noble woman who became his wife on January 1, 1856, when Mr. Fuller was united in marriage with Miss Ann Fagg, born September 22, 1834, in England, the eldest daughter of Henry Fagg, formerly an engineer on the South-eastern railway in England. To this union have been born eight children, as follows: Henry William, associated with his father in the hardware business; John died in 1914; William Edward and Walter are with the firm of Fuller & Son; Martha Jane, at home with her parents; Helen Florence died in September, 1870; Herbert Moreton, born at Centuria, June 24, 1871, and now engaged in business with his father; Mrs. Beatus Filia Williams, born in Seneca, Kans., and resides there.

Mr. and Mrs. Fuller are members of the Episcopalian denomination. Mr. Fuller became a Mason soon after settling in Seneca, and has served as master of the local lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and he enjoys the distinction of being one of the oldest Odd Fellows in Kansas, having become a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in his native country in April of 1852, and never having been delinquent in his dues during all of the sixty-four years he has been a member of the order. For the past twenty years he has been affiliated with the Knights of Pythias. John Fuller is a remarkable man, who has had a unique and interesting career.

One of the highly prized possessions in the Fuller domicile is a copper kettle, which was made by Mr. Fuller over fifty years ago, and is a masterpiece of the brazier's skill. The proudest day of the young manhood of this fine old gentleman was when he showed to his father the kettle, after it had been made with his own hands from the copper.

**Robert G. Mueller**, superintendent of the Seneca public school system, was born in Alleghany, N. Y., August 2, 1863, and is a son of Robert G. and Catharine (Ehret) Mueller, both of whom were born in Germany. Robert G. Mueller, Sr., emigrated from Germany with his parents, Jacob and Hannah Mueller, to America in 1849, and first settled in New York. Jacob Mueller, Sr., had learned the trade of tanner and worked at his trade in this country until he became the owner of a fine farm near Alleghany, N. Y., and finally died on his farm. Robert G. Mueller, the elder, migrated from New York to Atchison, Kans., in 1878, and after a four years' residence on a farm near that city, he removed to Atchison and has followed his trade of carpenter and builder almost continuously since 1882. Robert G. and Catharine Mueller have reared seven children, as follows: George W., deceased; Robert G., the subject of this review; Anna C. and Henry P., deceased; Charles F., a farmer living in Butler county, Kansas; Minnie W., deceased; William E., a barber in Kansas City, Mo. The mother of the foregoing children emigrated from her native land to America with her parents when six years of age. She died in Atchison in 1893.

Prof. Robert G. Mueller received his early education in the public and high schools of Atchison, Kans., and also attended the Monroe Institute of that city. He is self-educated, and worked his way through the University of Kansas, from which institution he graduated in 1901. Under the tutelage of his father he learned the carpenter's trade and worked during the summer vacations for money with which to continue his studies. Prof. Mueller began teaching in Atchison county in 1883, and taught for twelve years in his home county. His first principalship was at Hamlin, Brown county, Kansas, where he was located for one year; then one year at Fairview, Brown county, Kansas; six years as principal of the Sheridan County High School. He was called to Seneca to take charge of the city schools in 1906, and his ten years of work in this city have been very successful. Many innovations and betterments of the school work have been added by Mr. Mueller during his career in Seneca, among them being a normal training department, a domestic science department and agricultural course and a commercial department. Six teachers have been added to the high school force, and he has reorganized the seventh and eighth grades on the departmental plan. So great is the confidence held in Prof. Mueller's judgment by the board of education and the patrons of the schools that his requests for improvements are invariably granted and he enjoys the co-operation of the school officials and teachers to an exceptional degree.

He is still an indefatigable student and has spent four vacations at Chicago University, working toward the acquirement of a Master's degree. He received the Bachelor of Arts degree from the Kansas University and holds a Kansas State life certificate.

Prof. Mueller was married in 1889 to Miss Lillie M. Reynolds, of Cummings, Kans., a daughter of William T. Reynolds, a resident of Atchison, Kans. They have one child, Eunice, aged twelve years.

Prof. Mueller is an independent in politics and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he is a trustee and is superintendent of the Sunday school. He is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Prof. Mueller is a very useful citizen, who is generally found in the front ranks of those who seek to advance the civic and moral atmosphere of Seneca. His activities extend beyond the halls of the school building to such an extent that his services in behalf of the people of Seneca are immeasurable in their value to the city. By word and deed he has sought to help advance his home city in many ways.

**Solomon R. Myers.**—The achievements of Solomon R. Myers since his advent into Kansas forty-eight years ago are worthy of mention in a favorable sense and show that he has accomplished more than the ordinary man from a material standpoint and has filled the highest offices within the gift of the people of Nemaha county. He is descended from sturdy German stock fused with old American ancestry—a combination which makes the best American citizens. Mr. Myers' record reflects credit upon his ancestry, and he has carved for himself a career, the recital of which is well worthy of being handed down to posterity in this volume of historical annals of his home county and State. Solomon R. Myers was born in McDonough county, Illinois, April 4, 1849, and is a son of Jonas and Marguerite (Treadwell) Myers, who were the parents of ten children, of whom Solomon R. was the sixth child born, and only two of whom are living. Jonas Myers was born in North Carolina in 1810, and migrated to Illinois in the pioneer days of the settlement of that State. He developed a farm and died there in 1866. Jonas was a son of Thomas Myers, a native of Germany, who immigrated to North Carolina, and owned a farm in that State. When a youth, Jonas Myers learned the trade of hat maker. Mrs. Marguerite (Treadwell) Myers was born in Virginia, a daughter of Thomas Treadwell, a native of Virginia. She died in Brown county, Kansas.

Solomon R. Myers migrated to Kansas in 1868, and bought land in Brown county, which he improved and farmed until 1881. He then came to Nemaha county and bought 480 acres of good land in Rock Creek township. He improved this tract and cultivated it with considerable success until his retirement to a home in Sabetha in 1911. Mr. Myers' success in Kansas is due to the fact that he was an extensive feeder of cattle, his cattle feeding operations embracing over 500 head annually. In this manner he maintained and increased the fertility of his large acreage and marketed his farm products in the most economical and profitable manner. Mr. Myers owns property in Sabetha and is a shareholder and director of the National Bank of Sabetha.

Mr. Myers was married at Plymouth, Ill., February 7, 1867, to Mary Thompson, who has borne him twelve children, as follows: Mrs. Carrie Cochren, Santa Anna, Cal.; Mrs. Sarah Sanford, Peculiar, Mo.; James H., a farmer in Nemaha county; Mrs. Della Johnson, living in Nemaha



SOL. R. MYERS AND FAMILY.





county; George conducts a notion store in Sabetha; Mrs. Roxy Draney, living on a farm in Nemaha county; Mrs. Marguerite Brown, Peculiar, Mo.; Mrs. Ione, wife of B. Ransom, Brown county, Kansas; Mrs. Irene Koch, whose husband operates a bakery in Sabetha; Hester, at home; Herbert, deceased; Alfred, deceased. The mother of these children was born in Kentucky, January 11, 1849, and is a daughter of James and Rebecca (Wright) Thompson, who removed from Kentucky to Illinois and died there.

The political and civic career of this pioneer citizen of Kansas has been a noteworthy one. He was elected to the office of county commissioner in 1890, and served for two terms. He was a member of the State legislature as representative from Nemaha county in 1903, and he filled the duties of this position with credit to himself and his constituents. From 1881 to 1911 he served as a member of the school board of his township. He is prominent in Masonic circles and has taken all degrees of Masonry up to and including the thirty-second degree, and is a Mystic Shriner. He is also affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

**Anton Wempe.**—The Wempe family is one of the oldest pioneer families in Kansas, and its members are among the prominent citizens of Nemaha county. Anton Wempe, the "Father of Fidelity," Kans., is a product of the frontier era in the State, and his biography is an interesting one, which deserves a place of honor in the annals of that portion of the commonwealth with the development of which he has played such an important part.

Anton Wempe, retired, Seneca, Kans., was born in Effingham county, Illinois, December 24, 1847, and is a son of Herman Henry (born in 1813, and died July 5, 1861) and Mary Alexandrina (Jensen) Wempe (born in 1820, and died in 1853). Herman Henry Wempe and his brother, Gerard, came from their birthplace in Oldenburg, Germany, to America in 1831, and located in Cincinnati, Ohio. Herman Henry Wempe plied his trade of blacksmith in Cincinnati and eventually joined a colony of German born settlers who went westward to Effingham county, Illinois. This colony had previously sent representatives ahead on foot to spy out the country and report upon the most likely place in which to make a settlement. Henry Wempe became one of the leading members of this colony, which made a settlement in Illinois as early as 1842. He remained there until 1853 and then moved to a farm southeast of St. Louis, in St. Clair county, Illinois, where the family lived until 1858, at which time Henry Wempe made a trip to Kansas to look over the country. The appearance of the Kansas country impressed him so favorably that he determined to buy Kansas land, and in the spring of 1861, he came westward to Brown county, Kansas, where he invested in a tract of land soon after his arrival. He was the father of six children, as follows: Herman Henry, died at Sabetha, Kans., in 1912; Mrs. Philomena Wuebben, born in 1843, and died one year after her marriage; Mrs.

Elizabeth Buser, died near Fidelity, Kans., in 1911; Anton, the subject of this review; Clements August, died at Seneca in 1910; Mrs. Mary Winkler, a widow, residing in Seneca. The father of these children became enfeebled soon after his return from Kansas to his Illinois home, in 1861, and died July 5, 1861. Henry Wempe was married the second time to Mrs. Mary (Kempker) Klinkheimer, a widow, who cared for the infant left by his first wife, and later accompanied the family to Kansas. Anton, the subject of this review, was practically the head of the family during the migration to Kansas. Mrs. Klinkheimer had been engaged to care for the younger children. The youngest child, now Mrs. Mary Winkler, was but five weeks old at the time of the mother's death, and so well did Mrs. Klinkheimer care for the helpless infant and the other children that Henry Wempe espoused her in marriage, and she made a splendid mother for the children.

The Wempe family moved on the farm located near the Nemaha-Brown county line. The lumber used in the building of the Wempe home was shipped from Atchison, Kans. The trading point was White Cloud, Neb., and they hauled other material from the latter place, the trip requiring three days in the making. The first day was spent in traveling to White Cloud; the second day was needed to load the wagon, and it required a third day to make the return trip, a distance of forty miles.

Anton Wempe recalls that he would spend from two to five days in "going to mill," there being three milling places for the settlers, who would first go to Wells' mill on the Nemaha river; then, if this mill was not grinding, he would go to Salem, Neb., and then, perchance, go on to Falls City, Neb. It was frequently necessary for him to journey from one mill to the other to get his "grist" ground, on account of the water in the streams being low. One instance of going for "grist" in particular is worth recording. Anton Wempe and a neighbor started out with a load of grain en route to the Wells mill north of Sabetha, Kans. This mill was "broke down." They went on to Salem. "No grist" there, and found it necessary to go to Cincinnati, Neb. On their return trip they stopped at Wells' mill and asked the miller what was the trouble with the mill. The miller told Mr. Wempe and his neighbor that he was out of "whang leather" with which to fix the main belt, which was broken. Mr. Wempe saw that his neighbor had an old-fashioned "hame strap," and the men offered this strap to the miller for the purpose of fixing the belt. The belt was soon fixed and the mill started to grinding at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and by the next morning the "grist" of ten bushels of wheat and corn was all ground by 9 o'clock.

When it was impossible for the Wempe family to get "grist" ground at the mills, Mr. Wempe used the old-fashioned "potato grater," which consisted of a can with holes punched in the bottom, over which the corn was "grated" in order to remove the outer shell. One can conceive of what a laborious task this would be.

Anton Wempe lived on the home place of the family in the western part of Nemaha county, near the Brown county line, for a period of twenty-four and one-half years, or until the fall of 1892. He then bought a farm west of Seneca, upon which he moved and cultivated this tract until 1908. He then moved to Seneca, where he is living comfortably in a nice bungalow. He owned two farms, of 160 and eighty acres, at this time, but later traded the eighty-acre tract for a farm in Anderson county, Kansas. Mr. Wempe's farm is well improved and is a splendid producing tract. He was always an extensive live stock producer and generally sold the product of his farms on the "hoof." Besides his farming interests, Mr. Wempe is the second largest stockholder of the Citizens State Bank of Seneca, and is a director of this thriving financial institution. For a number of years he has served as vice-president of this bank.

Anton Wempe was married in 1872 to Miss Barbara Muench, who has borne him the following children: Joseph M., member of the firm of Wempe & Huerter, Seneca, Kans.; William P., a merchant of Baileyville, Kans.; Mary, at home; Gertrude, Fairbury, Neb.; Anna, wife of Philip Lauer, of the furniture and undertaking concern in Seneca, Kans.; Anthony J., assistant cashier of the Citizens State Bank of Seneca; Edward J., Fairbury, Neb.; Rose, known as Sister Maurus, O. S. B., Mt. St. Scholastica's Academy, Atchison, Kans. The mother of these children was born May 4, 1855, at Wilmet, Cook county, Illinois, and is a daughter of Joseph Mathias Muench, a native of Germany, who migrated from Illinois to Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1870.

Mr. and Mrs. Wempe are members of Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic Church and contribute liberally of their means to the support of the Catholic institutions. Mr. Wempe is affiliated with the Sts. Peter and Paul's Benevolent Society. He is allied with the Democratic party and filled several township offices when living on the farm in Richmond township. He filled the post of justice of the peace and township clerk and served as clerk of the school board for many years. Anton Wempe became widely known as the "Father of Fidelity," Kans., and started the first general store at that place in 1890. He was the first postmaster of the village, receiving his appointment under Postmaster General John Wanamaker. He sold out his store, however, in 1892. Mr. Wempe served as county commissioner from January to March of 1892, to fill a vacancy and was thus qualified on account of having received the highest vote in the primary election of 1891.

**Thomas E. Rooney**, real estate and loan dealer of Seneca, Kans., is one of the really successful men of his day and generation. Born in Marshall county, Kansas, of Irish parentage or descent, and reared on a pioneer farm in Kansas, he has grown up with a great State and prospered as his home county and State have done. He saw opportunity and grasped it and has made good in his line, and is one of the leading and substantial citizens of Seneca.

Mr. Rooney was born in Marshall county, Kansas, April 7, 1877, and is a son of John and Marguerite (Burke) Rooney, who were the parents of eleven children, ten of whom are living. John Rooney was born in Indiana in 1857, of Irish parentage. The Rooney family came to Kansas in 1873, and made a settlement in Marshall county, where the father cultivated his farm until his retirement in 1912 to a comfortable home in Marysville. Marguerite (Burke) Rooney was born in West Virginia in 1860, and departed this life in 1914.

Thomas E. Rooney was reared on the home farm in Marshall county, Kansas, and received his education in the district schools. He remained on the farm until 1908, and then removed to Seneca, where he established a real estate and loan business. He operates in all sections of Kansas, and has made a remarkable success of his business. Mr. Rooney is the owner of 1,500 acres of farm lands, has city property, and is the owner of a half interest in the Guilford Hotel in Seneca.

Mr. Rooney was married July 24, 1907, to Miss Nellie Feehan, of Pottawatomie county, Kansas. Three children have been born of this marriage, namely: Mark, born June 24, 1908; Raphael, born March 26, 1910, and Thomas E., Jr., born September 6, 1915. Mrs. Thomas E. Rooney was born January 11, 1881, and is a daughter of Cornelius Feehan, who was a native of Ireland, and immigrated to America, settling in Kansas in 1870. Both parents of Mrs. Rooney are deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Rooney are members of the Catholic church and contribute of their means to the support of the Catholic institutions. Mr. Rooney is allied with the Democratic party and is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association.

**George A. Shaul.**—For a citizen of an inland city the size of Seneca, Kans., to achieve national prominence in a field which is filled with able and ambitious competitors, is somewhat out of the ordinary—but George A. Shaul, general contractor and builder, of this city, has accomplished the feat, and ranks high among the builders of the West and Middle West. For several years his genius and activities have been directed in the work of erecting Government buildings, and so satisfactorily have his tasks been accomplished that one extensive contract follows another, and Mr. Shaul has achieved a reputation second to none in his chosen field of endeavor.

George A. Shaul was born June 23, 1861, in Leland, La Salle county, Illinois, and is a son of Aaron and Olive (Near) Shaul, the former a native of New York, and the latter a native of Pennsylvania. Aaron Shaul was born in 1822, and died in February of 1895. He was a son of Mathias Shaul, a soldier of the War of 1812, and who received a land warrant from the government in recognition of his services in behalf of his country. His warrant called for a tract of land in La Salle county, Illinois, and he removed thither at a very early day. When Aaron Shaul was eight years of age he served as a "mule driver" on the Erie canal in New York State, and worked his way upward to the position of boat



GEORGE A. SHAUL.



captain. He immigrated to Illinois, and in 1874, he came west to Nemaha county, Kansas, where he made a permanent settlement on a farm near Seneca. The first year of the residence of the Shaul family in Kansas was the famous "grasshopper year." George A. Shaul was thirteen years of age at this time, and he recalls this trying time very vividly. He was sent out to herd cattle for S. B. Leatherbury on the Nebraska line range. He was watching his herds out on the hills when the grasshoppers came with the wind driving them with such force and deafening noise south and west as to stampede the cattle and frightened the boy. Four sons and three daughters were born to Aaron Shaul and wife, namely: Frances, who died in infancy; William, died at the age of five years; John went to California in 1871, and has never been heard from since his departure; George A., the subject of this review; Mrs. Hattie Miller, Los Angeles, Cal.; Mrs. Henrietta Moores, Omaha, Neb.; Mrs. Ida L. Richardson, Lafayette, Ind. Mrs. Olive (Near) Shaul was born in 1827, and died in September, 1895. Her mother was a Miss Lee, of the famous Lee family, of Virginia. It is a matter of history that the oak from which the good ship "Constitution" was built was cut from the farm of Mrs. Shaul's grandfather Lee and hauled by ox team to Boston, ready for shaping into seaworthy timbers.

George A. Shaul assisted his father in tilling his Kansas farm until he was twenty-one years of age, and then crossed the continent to California, where he learned the trade of bricklayer and plasterer. Upon his return to Kansas he began contracting in a small way during this first year and gradually worked up to a large business. In the course of years Mr. Shaul became an extensive contractor, whose operations extended in all parts of the West. Becoming dissatisfied with the manner in which general contracting was carried on and the methods employed by some of his fellow contractors becoming decidedly distasteful to him, he made up his mind to abandon his contract work for the general public and devote his attention to government building.

This radical departure was not taken until he had given considerable thought to the matter of making a change and weighed the consequences. He finally decided that government work offered the best and most satisfactory field in which to exercise his talents and genius as a builder, and he made the plunge. During the past four years in which he has been engaged in erecting government buildings, Mr. Shaul has never found occasion to regret the change, and has received better and fairer treatment from his employers and has earned more money than ever before. His first government job was the erection of the postoffice building at Abilene, Kans., in 1912, and he is now erecting buildings at Garden City, Kans., Webb City, Mo., and Long View, Texas. He has erected the following government buildings, which are notable: Abilene, at a cost of \$65,000; Garden City, Kans., \$60,000; Webb City, Mo., \$65,000; Long view, Texas, \$45,000. Others completed are the government buildings at Clarksville, Texas, costing \$45,000;

Marshall, Texas, \$65,000, and he has built county court houses at Dodge City, Kans., and Broken Bow and Minden, Neb. Mr. Shaul has erected ten large public buildings in Nebraska, the annex to the Lincoln hotel, Lincoln, Neb.; remodeled the old city hall and postoffice at Lincoln, Neb.; erected the Carnegie Library at Lawrence, Kans., and has erected many school buildings throughout Kansas and Nebraska.

Mr. Shaul was married in 1900 to Miss Fannie Bennett, of Seneca. Mrs. Shaul was born in Illinois and taught school in Nemaha county, Kansas, for a number of years previous to her marriage with Mr. Shaul. They have no children.

The Republican party claimed the allegiance of Mr. Shaul for a number of years, and his father before him was one of the original Lincoln men. Of late years Mr. Shaul has become a great student and reader and become an independent thinker on public questions; likewise he has become an independent voter and is an admirer and supporter of Woodrow Wilson. He and Mrs. Shaul are members of the Universalist church. He is fraternally allied with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and is a Knight Templar, and belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. George A. Shaul is a courteous and able gentleman of the old school, whom time has matured and whose mind and breadth of vision have been greatly broadened by his nation-wide contact with his fellow men. He is a decided asset to the citizenship of Seneca and is proud of the fact that he is a Kansas pioneer and has grown up with this great State.

**Edward R. Murphy.**—The life story of Edward R. Murphy, retired pioneer and wealthy citizen of Nemaha county, is well worth recording in the annals of this county. A resident of Kansas since 1868, he has accomplished more in the last fifty years than the average man—and has risen to a high place in the esteem and respect of his fellow men. Kansas spelled "opportunity" for this patriarch in his younger days, and the wonderfully rich soil of the Sunflower State became the medium through which Mr. Murphy realized his dream of wealth and substance in the West. Besides the accumulation of a fortune from tilling the soil of his adopted State, he has bequeathed to his country a fine family of children.

Edward R. Murphy, farmer and banker, Seneca, Kans., was born in the province of Ontario, Canada, November 11, 1840, and is a son of Michael (born in 1815 and died in 1885) and Ellen (Tobin) Murphy (born in 1823 and died in 1880), both of whom were natives of Ireland. Michael Murphy emigrated from the Emerald Isle with his parents in 1823, when he was eight years old, and grew up to become a tiller of the soil. He married Ellen Tobin in Canada and resided in his adopted land until 1853, then moved to Iowa, where he lived until 1868, at which time he came to Kansas and lived one year in Nemaha county, and then moved to Richardson county, Nebraska, where he died. Michael and Ellen Murphy were the parents of the following children: Edward R., the



subject of this review; Mary Jane, died at Falls City, Neb.; Thomas, died at Falls City, Neb.; James, Oklahoma; Ellen, wife of John Draney, Seneca, Kans.; John, Oklahoma; Patrick, Falls City, Neb.; Robert, Falls City, Neb.; Elizabeth, wife of Jeremiah Kanaly, Falls City, Neb.; Mrs. Margaret Kanaly, Oklahoma; Michael, Oklahoma City, Okla.; William, died at Falls City, Neb.

Edward R. Murphy left his Canadian home and migrated to Iowa in 1853, first locating at Davenport, where he was employed until the spring of 1854, and he then removed to a farm in Clinton county, Iowa, which he cultivated with success until 1868.

"Commodore" Murphy, as he is affectionately called by all of his friends and acquaintances, has a notable war record to hand down to his children and grandchildren. Mr. Murphy enlisted in the United States navy in July, 1863, and served on the United States steamer "Peosta," which cruised on the Mississippi, Ohio, Cumberland and Tennessee rivers until the close of the Civil war.

After the war, Mr. Murphy returned to his home in Clinton county, Iowa, and was there married in 1866. Two years later he removed to Nemaha county, Kansas, and settled on a farm, one and one-half miles west of Seneca. This farm was partly broken up, and Mr. Murphy lived upon it for one year and then resided four years on the adjoining farm, at that time the county farm. In 1873, he was enabled to purchase 160 acres of land southeast of Seneca. His prosperity began with the purchase of this tract, and this fine old pioneer eventually became a large land owner and one of the wealthiest citizens of Nemaha county and northern Kansas. He added to his acreage until he owned 1,400 acres of land, from which he has sold 280 acres, but still owns 120 acres of the original home farm. He is the owner of 200 acres of land in Pottawatomie county, Kansas, and formerly owned more land, upon which he settled two of his sons and gave them a start in life. Mr. Murphy attributes his great success in farming to the fact that he never sold any grain raised on his land, but fed and handled large numbers of cattle and hogs. He would buy calves from other farmers and raise and fatten them for market. He was also an extensive breeder of horses and mules and used high grade sires in this department of animal husbandry. His favorite breed of cattle was the famous Shorthorn variety, and his horses were generally the standard Percherons. Mr. Murphy retired from active farm work in 1903 and lives comfortably in his beautiful residence in Seneca, cared for by his daughter, Ella Marion.

Mr. Murphy was married in 1866 to Catharine Kelly, who bore him the following children: Roger, born November 11, 1868, living in Topeka, Kans.; Ella Marion, born February 16, 1870; Elizabeth, born October 4, 1871, wife of A. E. Levick, Seneca, Kans.; Thomas, born February 13, 1875, living at Wamego, Kans.; Ralph J., born September 9, 1877, living in Oklahoma; Therese, born May 18, 1879, and wife of John R. Sheahan, Kansas City, Kans.; Edward R., born March 9, 1883. Mr.

Murphy has fifteen grandchildren. His son, Roger, has the following children: Edward Alvin, member of Company K, Eighth infantry, United States army, and stationed in the Philippines; Paul, Roger, Helen, Agnes, Eva; Mrs. Levick has four children, namely: Edward, Harry, John and Caroline; Thomas Murphy has three children, Ralph, Herbert and Harry; Ralph has one son, Thomas; Edward has a daughter named Mary Bernice. The mother of these children was born in Jennings county, Indiana, near Vernon, December 25, 1843, and died September 8, 1895.

The Democratic party has always had the allegiance of Mr. Murphy, but he has been content to be a voter in the ranks during his long life. He is a member of Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic Church, and is affiliated with the Knights of Columbus. Mr. Murphy is the colonel commanding or post commander of George Graham Post, Grand Army of the Republic, No. 92, and is a prominent figure in Grand Army of the Republic circle of the State of Kansas. In addition to his large land holdings, Mr. Murphy is a charter member of the stockholders and a director of the National Bank of Seneca.

**L. D. Allen.**—Successful banking calls for qualifications somewhat different from those required in other pursuits or professions. It calls for a keen mind, decisive action, ability to accurately judge the merits or demerits of a proposition, the power to judge and gauge human nature and determine upon the honesty and sincerity of those with whom the banker is constantly doing business. L. D. Allen, vice-president and manager of the First National Bank of Seneca, possesses the qualifications of a successful banker to a considerable degree. He is one of the rising financiers of Kansas, and his prestige in financial circles is considerable. He is one of those broad minded individuals who keep abreast of progress and have the faculty of adapting their capabilities to the advanced needs of this modern era. Although a comparatively young man, as years measure a man's age, his experience in banking has been such as to eminently fit him for the important position which he holds.

Liphe D. Allen was born on a farm in Pottawatomie county, Kansas, August 3, 1871, and is a son of John U. and Martha J. (Rollins) Allen, who were the parents of the following children: Rowland and Mattie died in infancy; William W. died at Havensville, Kans.; Charles H., living at Havensville, Kans.; Mrs. Mary A. Dennon, Seneca, Kans. John U. Allen was born at Boston, Mass., August 16, 1833, and was a son of William W. and Mary B. (Ulmar) Allen. He is descended from the Allen family of New England, and William W. Allen was a relative of Ethan Allen, of Vermont, who commanded the "Green Mountain Boys" at the battles and capture of Ticonderoga and Crown Point during the American Revolution. Mary B. (Ulmar) Allen was a daughter of Jacob Ulmar, born in Holland, and who fought in defense of the Netherlands against the Spanish conquerers, and was taken prisoner.



*L. D. Allen*



His wife, Mary (Blass) Ulmar, sent the money for his later ransom from this country. Mary (Blass) Ulmar, a lady of Welsh descent, was a member of the party of patriotic women who burned the bridge at Marblehead, Mass., in order to prevent the British from making a landing during the Revolution. John U. Allen's father, William W. Allen, conducted a boot and shoe store in Boston, Mass., and John U. became a leather dresser in his native city. William Allen served as an alderman on the Boston town council. After his marriage, March 22, 1855, John U. Allen lived in Boston for a time, and then located at Jamaica Plains. In 1862, he enlisted in the Ninth Massachusetts artillery, and served for nearly one year, receiving his discharge just previous to the battle of Gettysburg on account of disability incurred during his service in defense of the city of Washington, D. C. In March of 1870, he removed to Kansas and for a time was located at Topeka. Not long afterward he located on a tract of land near Havensville, Pottawatomie county, which he developed into a fine farm. He resided on his farm until he became afflicted with blindness, in 1901, and in November of that year he retired to a residence at Havensville, where his demise occurred on January 2, 1913. John U. Allen was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and was a Mason.

Mrs. Martha J. (Rollins) Allen now resides with her daughter, Mrs. Dennon, in Seneca, Kans. She was born March 23, 1838, and is a daughter of William S. and Abigail (Wheeler) Rollins, of English descent. The Rollins (originally Rawlins) is a very old American family, and the name "Rawlins" traces back to the year of our Lord 1363. Cornwall, England, is the ancient home of the family in Europe, and the emigration of the members of this family begins with the year 1630; during the period between 1630 and 1680, ten members of the family made settlements in America; some settled in the northern colonies and others settled in the south. During the next decade at least ten more members of this family came to America, and their descendants are many in this country. The members of the family who settled in the north changed the name to "Rollins" at the time of the Revolution, and it has remained "Rollins" to this day. Tracing the genealogy of L. D. Allen on the maternal side in a direct line we find that: (I) James Rawlins came from England and settled at Ipswich, Mass., in 1632. Later, in 1844, he received a grant of land at Dover, N. H., settled thereon and died in 1691. His son (II) Thomas, born in 1641, married Rachel Cox, and was a member of the rebelling assembly which protested the acts of an oppressive governor and was dissolved; was the father of ten children, of whom (III) Moses, born in 1672, at Strathan, N. H., married Esther, and died in 1717, and had nine children; (IV) Thomas (his son), born February 17, 1717, at Strathan, N. H., settled at Epping, N. H., and married Sarah, daughter of Capt. Jonathan and Elizabeth (Sherburn) Sanborn, who bore him six children, of whom (V) Moses, born March 10, 1744, at Epping, N. H., married Anna Drew, of Madbury, N. H.,

and was a soldier in the Continental army, fought in the Third New York regiment under General Sullivan at Ticonderoga in 1776, and in Gen. George Breeds' regiment in 1777; removed to Hallowell, Me., and died in 1824; had eleven children, of whom (VI) Jonathan, born October 1786, at Loudon, N. H., and died January 1, 1819, at Hallowell, Me.; moved from Loudon to Barnstad and married Clarissa, daughter of John Langley, of Barrington, N. H.; had two children, of whom (VII) William Stillson, born at Strafford, N. H., April 12, 1813, located at Rutland, N. H.; married Abigail B. Wheeler, of Rutland; removed to Charlestown, Mass.; had three children, as follows: Martha Jane (Allen), Mary Ann (Gilman), and Charles Henry.

L. D. Allen was reared to young manhood on the Kansas farm, and was educated in the Havensville, Kans., public schools. When he was twenty years of age he clerked in a hardware store for one year. His banking career was then begun, when he entered the Havensville bank as clerk and rose to the position of assistant cashier. In 1897, he removed to Goff, Kans., and became cashier of the State Bank of that city. He later organized the First National Bank of Goff, and served as president of that institution until 1906. Disposing of his banking interests in Goff, he removed to Seneca, where he became associated with J. E. Stillwell in conducting a loan and abstract business. In 1912, he and Mr. Stillwell purchased the holdings of the late J. H. Cohen in the First National Bank of Seneca and the Seneca State Savings Bank. Mr. Allen is serving as vice-president and manager of the First National Bank, and is cashier of the State Savings Bank, quartered in the First National Bank building.

In addition to his banking interests, Mr. Allen is an extensive owner of Kansas farm lands, all of his farms being located in Nemaha county.

Mr. Allen was married in 1895 to Miss Rosina Goodrich, who has borne him five children, as follows: Paul J., Mary, Ulmar, Charles L. D. and John H. Mrs. Allen was born at Farmington, Atchison county, Kansas, and is a daughter of Judson and Amelia Goodrich, early pioneer settlers of Atchison county. She is a well educated lady and received a classical and musical education at Holton University. For some years previous to her marriage, Mrs. Allen was a teacher of vocal music, and is endowed with exceptional musical talents. The Goodrich family now resides at Holton.

Mr. Allen is a progressive Republican, who maintains his allegiance to the party of Abraham Lincoln while working for the advancement and success of progressive principles within the ranks of his political party. He is interested in civic affairs, and assists materially in furthering the cause of education by serving as a member and chairman of the Seneca Board of Education. He and Mrs. Allen are members of the Christian church, and Mr. Allen is affiliated with the Knights and Ladies of Security.

As a business man and financier, Mr. Allen has made his mark in

the world of finance, and while still young in years and strength, he has won his way to a place of honor and prestige mainly through his own efforts. It is safe to predict further advancement for this native born Kansan, who has literally grown up with Kansas. One of the incidents of Mr. Allen's early life which impressed itself upon his memory for all time to come was his view of the first steam railway train to arrive at Corning, Kans., and which brought his grandmother from her faraway home in Boston, Mass. He has had the unique experience of riding in a "prairie schooner," lived on a pioneer farm, and was reared amid the most primitive surroundings.

**Leo J. Scheier.**—Among men in Seneca's financial circles, Leo J. Scheier ranks well and is second assistant cashier of the National Bank of Seneca. He stands high in business circles, and is known everywhere as a conservative and capable banking man.

Mr. Scheier was born March 17, 1886, in Seneca, Kans. He is a son of Peter W. and Catharine (Etringer) Scheier, to whom three children were born: Edward, of Chicago; Mary, living at home, and Leo J., who is the subject of this narrative. The father of Leo J. Scheier was born February 22, 1850, of German immigrants, who settled in Illinois. His parents were Mathias and Louise Scheier. Catherine Scheier was born June 6, 1850, and died in 1902. She was the daughter of natives of Alsace-Lorraine, the provinces of which have played so great a part in the European war. She came to America with her parents and settled in Illinois, where she was married to Peter Scheier.

Leo J. Scheier's parents came to Nemaha county, Kansas, in the early seventies and settled on a farm one mile west of town. They brought their parents with them and Mathias bought the farm on which his son, M. F. Scheier, an uncle of Leo J., now resides. After a year or two on the farm, Peter moved to Seneca and lived in town while farming nearby land. He is now retired.

Leo J. Scheier was educated in the parochial school of Seneca, Kans., and later attended St. Benedict's College at Atchison, Kans., where he took classical work. Poor health forced him to take a complete rest in 1905 and after a year's recuperation, he entered the Seneca State Savings Bank as cashier, where he remained four and one-half years. In January, 1912, he was called to the National Bank of Seneca, Kans., to become its second assistant cashier, and has since been acting in that capacity.

In politics, Mr. Scheier is an independent Democratic voter, who is not to be stampeded into voting an unfit man into office because he wears the party label. Mr. Scheier is a thinking man and in political matters prefers to do his own thinking. He belongs to the Sts. Peter and Paul's Church and to the Knights of Columbus order. He is also affiliated with the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association and the Knights and Ladies of Security. He is chancellor of the Knights of Columbus, Seneca Council, No. 1769.

**Mathias Schneider**, president of the Seneca Savings Bank, is one man whose natural handicaps were not strong enough to overpower his strong ambition, and the fact that he was born in a foreign land and of poor parents has not prevented him from occupying one of the most responsible places in the business affairs of Nemaha county.

Mathias Schneider was born August 21, 1839, in Prussia, German Empire, and was a son of Peter and Anna Maria (Meier) Schneider. The father, Peter Schneider, was born in Prussia, in 1799, and grew up to follow the occupation of farming. Leaving his native land in 1845, he sailed for America, and upon his arrival here, came to Milwaukee, Wis. He bought a farm near that place, in Waukesha county, and conducted it until his death in 1903. The mother of Mathias Schneider was born in Prussia, in 1799, and died in 1907. Both were members of the Catholic church. They were the parents of five children: Adolph, deceased; Anton, deceased; Mrs. Margaret Wright, deceased; Anna Maria (Wright), deceased, and Mathias.

Mathias Schneider left Germany with parents, and after coming to America, he remained with them until he was twenty-nine years of age. He then went to Salem, Neb., where he bought 340 acres of fine farming land. He sold this land in 1880, and bought eighty acres near St. Benedict, Richmond township, Nemaha county, Kansas. In 1892, he sold this land in order to buy the place which he now owns, which comprises 640 acres of the best land in the township, east of Seneca. Mr. Schneider has been an excellent manager, and from the successful operation of his farm he has accumulated a considerable fortune. His general reputation for shrewd and conservative business methods led to his election as president of the Seneca Savings Bank when it was organized. His career was so conspicuously successful as to make him the most available man for the place, and consequently he was chosen as the first president of the organization, whose duty it was to start the bank out on its career. He is also a shareholder in the corporation and invested a considerable sum in the project. The success of this institution is testimony to the ability of Mr. Schneider and justifies the confidence which his fellow citizens placed in him.

He was married in 1865 to Elizabeth Birkhauser, who was born May 23, 1842, in Germany, and left there with her parents and came to Wisconsin while she was a young girl. She died in 1879, having been the mother of eight children, whose names are: Peter A., Mitchell township; Anna A., married Henry Stallbaumer, now a widow living with her children; Jennie, wife of Henry Koelzer, living in Missouri; Elizabeth, now Mrs. Peter Joseph Koelzer, whose husband is a lumberman, of Seneca, Kans.; Gertrude, wife of Peter Smith, Seneca, Kans.; Karl M., Richmond township, farmer.

Mr. Schneider is a Catholic and a member of the Knights of Columbus order. He is one of the foremost citizens of Seneca, and is influential in public affairs.







MAT. SCHNEIDER AND FAMILY.



MAT. SCHNEIDER.



MRS. MAT. SCHNEIDER.



**John Draney**, retired farmer, Seneca, Kansa, was born at Coboung, on Lake Ontario, Canada, September 8, 1840, and is a son of Hugh (born in 1805; died in 1856) and Margaret (Connolly) Draney (born November 1, 1814; died October 6, 1896), both of whom were natives of Ireland. Hugh Draney was born in the north of Ireland and Margaret Draney was born near Dublin, a daughter of John and Norah (Kanon) Connolly. Hugh Draney emigrated from Ireland to Canada when a young man in his teens and was there married. After his marriage he migrated to Clinton county, Iowa, in the winter of 1856, and died there. The widow was left with a family of six sons and a daughter, as follows: John, subject of this review; Mrs. Elizabeth McQuaid, Seneca, Kans.; James, deceased; Hugh, living on a farm north of Seneca; Thomas, Seneca; Martin, migrated to the State of Washington in 1885 and died there in 1912; Michael, Kansas City, Mo. The elder Draney had planned to locate in the West and stopped in Iowa, but found the land too high priced for his means, and determined to come to Kansas. Death intervened in 1856, and the widow carried out his plans. In the spring of 1857, Mrs. Draney, with her family of children, migrated to Nemaha county, Kansas, and preempted a homestead of 160 acres, three miles north of Seneca. She also bought land from the government and was successful in accumulating a large estate of 720 acres. The family farm was located in the St. Benedict neighborhood, and the family expected hard times for a while, but the ability of Mrs. Draney was so great and her powers of management so remarkable that she was successful where strong men failed and had to give up the fight for the redemption of the prairie. Flour cost, in those days, the exorbitant price of \$6 per 100 pounds, and was a great luxury in the frontier homes. Other necessities were priced in proportion on account of the high freighting rates. The Draney funds, which were to be used in buying land, had been originally left in Canada. When Mrs. Draney had her family located she made the long trip back to Canada alone and brought her money to Kansas quilted in her skirt, after having had her bank draft turned into cash in Iowa. She carried this money all alone to Nemaha county from Davenport, Iowa. She reared every child to become an upright and God-fearing citizen and set an example to them of industry and right living which will never be forgotten by her progeny. When old age came upon Mrs. Draney, she retired to a home in Seneca. Although a small woman physically, she made up in energy and determination what she lacked in size; she was good, kind and brave and resourceful.

John Draney recalls that he and Mr. Gregg met his mother on her return trip from Iowa and Canada, and accompanied her to Nemaha county from Iowa Point, and that the river was very high, necessitating their waiting for a week for the waters to subside. John, at the outbreak of the Civil war, entered the quartermaster's department at Ft. Leavenworth, Kans., in 1861. His duty was to carry supplies to the Union soldiers stationed at different points, and the only time he was under

fire was in the chase after General Price. In the year 1865 he was sent out with a train of five hundred pack mules, carrying supplies to the Powder river country, and he witnessed the Indian battle at Powder river. His government service ended in 1865, and he returned home and began to till his 120-acre farm, which his mother had given him four years previously. He tilled his land until 1868, and then, in company with a neighbor, rigged up a team and wagon and started for Oregon. When he arrived at Marysville, Kans., they learned that the Indians were on the warpath up the South Platte river and they headed westward via Lincoln, Neb. They found all ranches on the route deserted, and at Ft. Laramie were forced to wait until forty wagons had gathered for the train. They ended their long journey at Apple river, California, where they remained for one year, and then went to San Francisco and decided to return home and give up the project of making a settlement on the Pacific coast. At San Francisco, Mr. Draney took a steamer to Panama and returned home via New York City. He settled down to farming his land, three miles north of Seneca, and improved it to such an extent that he was enabled to sell out in 1879. He then invested the proceeds in a 240-acre farm, east of Oneida. This formed the permanent home of the family until 1909, when he and Mrs. Draney removed to a comfortable home in Seneca. The Draney farm is one of the most valuable and well improved farms in the county and is easily worth \$150 an acre, a great rise from the original purchase price of \$7.50 an acre. At the time he bought the farm there was neither tree nor shrub on the place, but he and Mrs. Draney have improved and beautified it until now it resembles an old Eastern farm.

John Draney was married to Ellen Murphy, May 20, 1871, and this union has been blessed with the following children: Margaret Ellen, born March 4, 1872, and wife of John O'Kane, of Blue Rapids, Kans., and mother of three children, Margaret, John and Walter; Florence, born August 31, 1873, a trained nurse at Chicago, Ill.; John Hugh, born September 10, 1875, and died February 24, 1876; William Wallace, born February 27, 1877, married Roxanna Myers, and resides on a farm adjoining the home farm, and has seven sons and two daughters, as follows: Alfred, John, Emmet, Solomon, Randolph, Lester, Delphin, Wallace, Nina and Lola; Edwin Draney, born January 3, 1879, married May O'Kane, Fairview, Neb., and has five children, as follows: Celia, Mabel, Daniel, Marie and Clifford; Charles Draney, born October 2, 1881, married Lola Shaver, resides in St. Joseph, Mo.; Robert, born October 11, 1883, married Alice Rogers, resides on the home place, and has two children, namely: Cecil and Ellen; Walter Draney, born April 22, 1887, married Tecla Egen, and lives on a farm near Capioma, and has two children, Walter, Jr., and Richard John; Leo, born April 11, 1891, a medical student, Omaha, Neb. The mother of this fine family of children was born October 13, 1851, in Ontario, Canada, and is a sister of Edwin R. Murphy, of Seneca, to whose biography the reader is referred for the history of the Murphy family.

Mr. Draney has in his possession the birth certificate of his mother, which reads as follows: "Church of St. Joseph, Mount Mellick, September 12, 1819. Margaret Connolly, baptized. God parents, Owen Delaney and Margaret Scully."

Mr. and Mrs. Draney and the children are members of the Catholic church, and Mr. Draney is politically allied with the Democratic party. They are an intelligent, interesting couple, who are proud of the fact that they are pioneers in Nemaha county, and have assisted in building up a great State.

**Charles E. Mathews**, farmer, Seneca, Kans., was born in Atchison, Kans., October 7, 1865, and is a son of Hiram and Sarah (Skinner) Mathews, to whom were born two children: Charles Edwin, the subject of this review, and Elmer Roy Mathews. Hiram Mathews was born in Indiana, in 1828, and was a pioneer in Atchison, Kans., locating in that city in 1857. For several years he was a stage driver on the overland route from Atchison to Denver, Colo. In 1862, he enlisted for service in behalf of the Union at Leavenworth, Kans., and became a member of Company D, Second Kansas cavalry. He was second sergeant of his company, and saw active service at the battle of Prairie Grove, and many other engagements and served until the close of the war. He then located in Seneca, Kans., where occurred the culmination of a romance which had begun in the old days of the stage coach. Before the war he had become enamored of a widow, Mrs. Sarah Jane (Skinner) Wetmore, who had come to Seneca with her husband in 1855, and made a settlement on Illinois river, south of Seneca, and homesteaded land. Her first husband died and she wedded the returned veteran, who proceeded to homestead a tract of land, which is now owned by the subject of this review, and located just outside of the city limits, north of Seneca. Hiram Mathews developed this farm of 160 acres and part of it is now incorporated within the limits of the city. He died in 1886. The mother of Charles Edwin was born in Pennsylvania in 1838, and moved with her parents to Illinois, where they died, and she married Mr. Wetmore. Both of Mr. Mathews' parents had been twice married.

Charles Edwin Mathews was educated in the public schools of Seneca, and has always lived on the farm which he owns. He rented the land from his mother until her demise, and then came into possession of the tract by inheritance and purchase. Part of the Mathews farm has been sold and incorporated in the city of Seneca and Mr. Mathews is now farming sixty-five acres of the original tract. He is well-to-do and is a shareholder of the National Bank of Seneca.

Mr. Mathews was married in 1882 to Miss Carrie Thompson, who was born May 8, 1859, in Warren county, Ohio. (See sketch of her brother, Howard Thompson, for data concerning the parents of Mrs. Mathews). She is a graduate of the Seneca High School, and taught school one year before her marriage. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Mathews, as follows: Lillian, wife of Charles Voorhees,

Seneca, Kans.; Mattie, at home with her parents, a graduate of the Seneca High School and the domestic science department of the Manhattan State College; Edward, at home, a graduate of the Seneca High School, and farming in partnership with his father.

Mr. Mathews is a Progressive in his political tendencies and is a firm believer and advocate of purity in politics and rule by the people and for the people, without domination by the party bosses. He and his family are members of the Congregational Church of Seneca, and he is affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

It is a matter of Kansas history that an uncle of Mrs. Mathews, John Doyle by name, conducted the first tavern in Seneca, which for many years was the old stage station until superseded by a later building.

**Joshua Mitchell**, attorney, justice of the peace and city clerk of Seneca, Kans. is one of the real, old pioneer settlers of Nemaha county, and has had an interesting and varied career which reads like a tale from romantic fiction in the recounting. Pioneer and a son of a Kansas pioneer settler, scion of old Eastern American ancestry, soldier, Indian fighter, public official, racing man, successful attorney,—he has had considerable to do with the making of a great county and State. Judge Mitchell is one of the last survivors of the famous Powder River Indian fight, when the Sioux Indians received such a crushing defeat at the hands of the Sixteenth Kansas regiment, famous for its exploits and fighting ability, and a regiment noted for its daredevil members and brave and hardy fighters.

Joshua Mitchell was born at Dover, Me., March 11, 1842, and is a son of William Hamilton and Keziah Leland (McLanathan) Mitchell, natives of Maine. William H. Mitchell, his father, was born at Foxcraft, Maine, in 1803, and died on his farm in Nemaha county, Kansas, February 5, 1859. He was a son of Joshua Mitchell, a native of Dover, Maine, a farmer and a son of Irish parents. Joshua Mitchell, grandfather of Judge Mitchell was a soldier in the War of 1812. The mother of Judge Mitchell was a daughter of Samuel McLanathan, who married Keziah Leland. She was born in 1811, and is deceased. Keziah Leland McLanathan was a daughter of Henry Leland and Sarah (Phipps) Leland, and was born in 1787. Henry Leland was the third in line of his family in America, and was a son of Henry Leland, who was also a son of the first Henry Leland. Sarah (Phipps) Leland was a daughter of Sir William Phipps, one time royal governor of Massachusetts. (The foregoing ancestral data concerning the lineage of Joshua Mitchell was taken from Henry Leland Genealogical Record).

William H. Mitchell was reared on the paternal farm in Maine until 1843, when he located in Lowell, Mass., and served for ten years as captain of the night police force of Lowell. In 1853, he migrated westward to Galesburg, Ill., and owned a farm in Knox county, which he developed and cultivated until October of 1858. In that year he loaded





IRA K. WELLS.



JOSHUA MITCHELL.



all of his moveable effects on wagons, and accompanied by his wife and all of his children excepting the oldest girl drove overland to Nemaha county, Kansas, locating on the present townsite of Centralia. He built a log cabin, but did not live long to develop his Kansas farm, death intervening in February of the year following his advent into Kansas. Ten years after William H. Mitchell preempted his farm, the town of Centralia was laid out and built on the site of his former home. The following children were left fatherless by the demise of William H. Mitchell: Samuel McLanathan, deceased; William Hamilton lives at Liberty, Mo.; Emily Ann, deceased wife of Nathan Bentley Uppel, who was killed on the field of Gettysburg, Pa., July 3, 1863; Sarah Keziah, deceased wife of Albert Clark, also deceased, and former residents of Seneca.

The Civil war record of Joshua Mitchell began with his enlistment, October 8, 1861, in Company D, Eighth Kansas infantry, with which organization he served until August 3, 1863. After his honorable discharge he re-enlisted as a veteran soldier in Company M, Sixteenth Kansas cavalry, which was equipped as a light artillery company on December 8, 1863, and he served until December 8, 1865. He was commissioned first lieutenant of Company M, and his command saw much hard service. While a member of the Eighth Kansas, Mr. Mitchell saw service in fighting bushwhackers in the border counties of Missouri until his regiment was ordered to Tennessee in 1863. He was taken sick at that time with typhoid fever, which developed into pneumonia, and he received his discharge on account of sick disability. While delirious with fever, he suffered painful injuries by falling off a treble in Nashville, Tenn. Careful nursing at home soon restored him to vigorous health and strength, however, and he re-enlisted, as stated previously, and his regiment fought General Price's army of invasion at the battle of Westport, October 23, 1864; the battle of the Little Blue River and Cavin Creek, and the battle of Newtonia. During these engagements, his company was under the direct command of Col. Sam Walker, a great and brave fighter. The famous Sixteenth Kansas regiment was part of the army which drove General Price to the Arkansas river, as had been planned by the Union authorities. During the Westport battle every horse excepting one in Mr. Mitchell's command was killed, and his comrades would seize the horses of the soldiers watching the conflict from the rear and the side lines and again rush into the thick of the fight, during which the "Sixteenth" bore the brunt of the battle and covered themselves with imperishable glory. They had four pieces of artillery in this engagement, and the muzzles of the guns were kept hot while throwing shot and shell into the demoralized ranks of the rebel invaders. On February 13, 1865, the "Sixteenth" was ordered in pursuit of the hostile Sioux Indians, and marched west to join the command of Brig. Gen. Patrick Edwin Connor. The expedition was planned in the following order: The Sixteenth Kansas, the

Second Missouri light artillery and the Twelfth Missouri cavalry, and these divisions marched twenty miles apart to their destination in Wyoming, where they expected to meet the Indians. The famous battle of the Powder River ensued. The Sixteenth regiment formed the center of attack and was only saved from annihilation by the artillery; four times they repulsed the frenzied charges of the savages, and were forced to bear the brunt of the fighting, because the supporting columns could not see the heliograph signals, owing to the fact that the wily redmen flashed mirrors against the artillery men. This battle was Lieutenant Mitchell's last great fight, and his service ended soon afterward.

Mr. Mitchell's employment in behalf of the United States Government did not cease with his war service, however, and in April, 1866, he took charge of a government train of twenty-six transport wagons (mule motive power) and convoyed the train across the plains to Ft. Union, N. M., and was thus engaged in freighting to New Mexican points until 1867, when he returned to Seneca.

In 1868, he preempted a homestead in Neuchatel township, lived on it one year, commuted, and proved up on his claim. In November of 1871, Mr. Mitchell was elected to the office of county clerk, and served for four years. He was re-elected to the same office in 1875, and served for another four years. In 1880, he was appointed deputy treasurer of the county, and served for one year under Treasurer R. E. Nelson, and one year as deputy under A. C. Moorehead. In 1883, he was appointed to the office of justice of the peace to fill out the unexpired term of D. B. McKay. During the years ensuing, from 1884 to 1891, this versatile gentleman followed the racing circuits with a string of fast running horses, and this was probably the most enjoyable period of his long and eventful life. He bred practically all of his own running horses and owned four fast runners and a fine trotter. Mr. Mitchell was the owner of "Bright Eyes," the famous running mare, which was known to the track devotees of twenty-five years ago and achieved a national reputation.

His racing career was abandoned in May, 1891, when he received a telegram at Anaconda, Mont., from Ira Collins, then chairman of the board of managers of the State Soldiers' Home, to take the position of quartermaster at the home. He accepted, sold his racing string, and capably filled the position until May, 1894. In the meantime, Mr. Mitchell had the misfortune to suffer a broken arm, caused by a falling horse, in November of 1893. He returned to Seneca, Kans., and in the spring of 1895, was elected justice of the peace, and has held this office since that time, with the exception of two years, when it was filled by Hon. J. E. Corwin. Mr. Mitchell was admitted to the practice of law in 1875, and now devotes practically his whole time to his law business.

Joshua Mitchell was married February 6, 1868, to Miss Julia Elizabeth Brown, born November 8, 1846, in Warren county, Illinois, a daughter of George and Amanda Fertodd Smith Brown, natives of Ken-

tucky. The father of Mrs. Mitchell died in Nodaway county, Missouri, in 1867. Her mother was born near Lexington, Ky., and after her husband's death she made her home with her children, dying at the home of her son, Albert Gardner Brown, Republic county, Kansas, in 1886. Mr. Mitchell's wedding occurred at St. Joseph, Mo., at the home of Harry Brown, a brother of Mrs. Mitchell. Four children have blessed this union of Joshua and Julia Mitchell, namely: George Anthony, now an electrician in Seneca; was sailor on the high seas for five years and traveled in all parts of the world, returning home in 1914; Ellen Amanda married Chris L. Diehm, Leavenworth, Kans., and mother of three children, namely: Christopher M., Julia Barbara, and Joshua Mitchell Diehm; William Henry died in August, 1872, at the age of eighteen months; Edwin Ruthven Brown Mitchell, educated in the Seneca schools, which he attended for fourteen years without being absent or tardy. He was married in June, 1915, to Miss Mamie Bresnahan, of Kansas City, Kans., and is cashier and staff clerk in the office of the deputy United States revenue collector at Wichita, Kans.

Judge Mitchell has been allied with the Democratic party, and has taken a prominent and influential part in the affairs of his party. He is a member of George Graham Post, No. 92, Grand Army of the Republic, and is affiliated with Seneca Lodge, No. 39, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

**Victor N. Peret**, retired farmer and Union veteran of Seneca, Kans., has had a most interesting career. He comes of a noted family of soldiers and is one of four sons of a soldier father, who served in the Union army during the Civil war. Although past eighty years of age, and one of the last of the famous old guard who offered their lives in defense of the Union, Mr. Peret is still vigorous mentally and enjoys life to the utmost. Thirty of his four score years of life have been spent in Kansas and during that time he has reared a fine family and accumulated a fair sized competence for his support during his declining years.

Mr. Peret was born at Abington, Wayne county, Indiana, March 3, 1836. He is a son of Victor and Mary (Dichmocker) Peret, natives of France. Victor Peret, the father, was born in 1778, and was reared in France. When he attained young manhood he became a soldier in the French armies under the great Napoleon Bonaparte and fought for several years in behalf of the emperor. He was captured in battle and taken prisoner by the British, who impressed him into service on a British sailing vessel, where he was compelled to serve for eleven years against his will and inclination. When the ship finally landed at a United States port, he made his escape and later went inland to a small town in Indiana (Abington), where he worked at his trade of tailor until his demise in 1850. The mother of the subject was born in Alsace and died in Indiana in 1850, at the age of forty-four years. They were the parents of ten children, of whom Victor N. and his youngest brother, Henry E., of Holt county, Missouri, are the only ones living. Henry E.

was a soldier in the Union army, as were two other brothers of the subject, James W. and August Sebastian.

Victor N. Peret was reared by kind neighbors and worked at any honest labor in order to earn a living for himself after the death of his parents. He worked at farm labor for the munificent sum of \$3 per month and "found," but as he grew older and stronger he easily commanded a higher wage. On February 11, 1864, he enlisted in Company I, One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Indiana infantry, and served until the close of the war. Mr. Peret saw service in the Atlanta campaign, and after the fall of Atlanta, his command followed Hood's army to Columbia, S. C., expecting to meet Hood there and a battle took place, followed by another battle at Franklin. Hood's army was later defeated at Nashville, Tenn. Mr. Peret was then sent with his corps to Washington, D. C. He was engaged in many battles and skirmishes and was for a time at Morehead City, N. C., from where his command was transferred by train to Newbern, N. C. From this point they marched thirty miles to Kingston, where they were engaged in a three days' fight. This was his last battle. Mr. Peret was honorably discharged from the service at Greensborough, N. C., August 31, 1865.

After his notable war service, Victor N. Peret returned to Indiana and cut wood during the winter of 1865 and 1866. He then came to Hannibal, Mo., and purchased a farm of 100 acres in the neighborhood of that city, which he cultivated for fifteen years. He then went to Holt county, Missouri, and farmed there for one year, until his removal to Wetmore, Kansas, in 1883. He and his brother, James W., started a general merchandise store at Wetmore, and eight months later, Mr. Peret sold his interest in the business to his partner and bought a farm in Wetmore township. He cultivated his acreage for seventeen years and added to his holdings until at one time he owned 500 acres of good land. In 1904, Mr. Peret decided to retire and removed to a pleasant and comfortable home in Seneca, where he owns considerable real estate.

Mr. Peret was married in 1867 to Mary E. Shute. Ten children have blessed this happy marriage, of whom seven are living, as follows: John W., a farmer of Illinois township, Nemaha county; Emma, died at the age of twenty-one years; Mrs. Anna Trapp, Brown county, Kansas; Omar E., living in Idaho; James, Fort Worth, Texas; Mrs. Pearl Fleming, living on a farm near Council Grove, Kans.; Cecil, El Paso, Texas; Mrs. Mae Sheppard, Seneca, Kans.; Robert C., died at the age of one year; two children died in infancy. Mrs. Mary Peret was born December 5, 1846, in Richmond, Ind., a daughter of Robert C. and Mary C. (Clark) Shute, natives of New England. Robert C. Shute was an engineer by profession, and for a period, of forty years was engaged in the practice of his vocation as engineer and county surveyor of Wayne county, Indiana. Both parents of Mrs. Peret are deceased.

Mr. Peret is an independent voter, who does his own thinking along political lines. He and his good wife are members of the Methodist

church. Mr. Peret is senior commander of the Grand Army Post at Seneca, Kans. He is one of the grand old men of Kansas of whom it is a pleasure to have written this brief review. To the mind of the writer there are no Americans worthy of more honor and distinction than the brave fellows who marched to the strains of martial music beneath the folds of the American flag and fought on the great battlefields of the South in order to preserve the Union from dissolution. They, the men in the ranks, under the leadership of the greatest generals of the age, bestowed an untold blessing upon mankind for centuries to come in making the sacrifices necessary to accomplish the end sought by President Lincoln. Commander Peret is one of these, and he enlisted in the Union army imbued with the idea that slavery was a sin and it was his patriotic and religious duty to shoulder a musket and assist in bringing about the conquest of the South and the preservation of the Union.

**Barnard Winkler.**—The late Barnard Winkler was a pioneer of Kansas and one of the best known citizens of Nemaha county. His life was well rounded and the years of his earthly sojourn were replete with industry and good deeds, which will make him long remembered. Barnard Winkler was born in Oldenburg, Germany, January 5, 1841, and was a son of Barnard Winkler. He left his native land in 1867, immigrated to America and settled in St. Louis, Mo., where he followed the carpenter trade for a year, and then came to Kansas. Mr. Winkler first settled in Brown county and bought forty acres of land, upon which he erected a two-room house, which served as a residence for him and his bride during the first years of their struggle for a competence in Kansas. Mr. Winkler hauled the lumber from White Cloud with which to build this little dwelling, ten feet square. He did all of his own carpenter work and broke up his forty-acre tract with the aid of an Indian pony and one horse. Four years later he sold this farm and bought seventy-two acres on the county line, which he improved. Times were hard for Mr. and Mrs. Winkler during those early years and they suffered many privations in trying to make ends meet. They bought a lumber wagon for \$10, used chains and old harness for tugs, with a leather line on one side and a rope on the other. They farmed this tract until 1889, then sold out and came to Nemaha county, Kansas, where Mr. Winkler bought 160 acres of land in Richmond township. This farm was the permanent home of the Winkler family until 1909. He improved the farm and made it very attractive and profitable, so that he and his family lived in comfortable circumstances. This Kansas pioneer died September 12, 1910, in Seneca, where the family moved in 1909.

Barnard Winkler and Miss Mary Wempe were married February 3, 1869, in Atchison, Kans. Mrs. Winkler was born October 2, 1852, in Effingham county, Illinois, and is a daughter of Herman Henry and Alexandrina (Jensen) Wempe, natives of Oldenburg, Germany, who settled in Kansas in the spring of 1861. (See biography of Anton

Wempe for a complete account of the Wempe family in America and Kansas.) Anton Wempe is a brother of Mrs. Winkler. Eleven children were born to Barnard and Mary Winkler, as follows: Henry, a farmer of Nemaha county, Kansas; Barnard, living on a farm near Kelly, Kans.; Charles, of Seneca; Anna, wife of F. M. Sears, proprietor of the Bonair Hotel, Seneca; Elizabeth, wife of C. Schneider, living on a farm east of Seneca; John S., a farmer in Nemaha county east of Seneca; William, cultivating the home place; Frank, deceased; Joseph, Seneca, Kans., a well known horse and mule dealer, married Minnie Robertson; Mary, deceased, was twin sister of Joseph Winkler; Anton, deceased.

Mrs. Winkler was reared to maturity in St. Clair county, Illinois, and received a good common school education. When twelve years of age she went to work in the fields, binding wheat in the shock by hand. When she and Mr. Winkler were striving to get ahead, she nobly did her part and ably assisted in building up the family fortunes. Mrs. Winkler hauled hogs to market when the market price was just enough so that she received \$2 for hauling five or six porkers, going twelve miles to Wetmore from their home, for a neighbor. They thought this amount of money was a small fortune in those days, and that they were amply repaid for the trouble of hauling the animals. The Winklers lived on the farm until 1909 and then removed to town for a well earned retirement in peace and comfort. Mrs. Winkler is the owner of 160 acres of land and has city property in Seneca. Mr. Winkler, wife and children were all members of the Catholic church.

**Irvin Johnson**, retired farmer of Seneca, Kans., comes of an interesting family. His father led a romantic life in the pioneer days, having journeyed to California behind oxen and sailed back via the long sea route.

Mr. Johnson was born August 17, 1857, in California. He was the son of Richard and Eliza (Metler) Johnson, to whom these four children were born: Isaiah, deceased; Lydia, Mrs. Thompson, living on the old family farm, Nemaha county, Kansas; Ella, wife of Mr. Zimmerman, of Seneca, Kans.; Irvin, of whom this sketch is to deal.

The father was born April 29, 1833, in Indiana. His father was Ebenezer Johnson, a stanch man of Scotch-English blood. The mother was Elizabeth Tandy before her marriage to Ebenezer and they lived on their farm in Indiana, but moved to Iowa in the early days. In 1852, Richard Johnson and his brother-in-law, Isaiah Metler, took an overland trip to California by ox team. Six years later he (Richard) returned to Missouri and shortly afterward bought 160 acres near Baker's Ford, in Nemaha township, Nemaha county, the date of this transaction being July, 1860. During the next eleven years he farmed this place, making improvements constantly and at the end of that period he sold out and bought land in Richmond township, where he lived until seven years before his death, in 1913, when he came to Seneca. At that time he held 800 acres of land which he had acquired by hard work and careful



management. Richard Johnson's political career was a noteworthy one, he having been elected State representative on the Democratic ticket in 1870 and to the office of sheriff two years later, in 1872. Later, he was county commissioner of Nemaha county, and worked hard in the interests of the public. He never held office for personal profit or glory, and was always deeply interested in the matter of public welfare. Proof of his ability to give the people good administration lies in the fact that he was repeatedly elected on the Democratic ticket in a district where the Republican party was well organized and very strong. Personal friendship and a conviction that he could give good service led to scratched tickets on the part of many who were in the habit of voting the Republican ballot straight.

The mother of Irvin Johnson was born in Ohio, August 2, 1833, and died in 1914, in Seneca, Kans., where she and her husband had lived since 1905. They were married in 1852 in Iowa.

Irvin Johnson was reared on the farm and went through the usual hard life of the boy on the farm. He, as all farmers' boys in those days, was deprived of good school facilities, and was able to attend school only three months of the year. Until he was twenty-one years old, he remained at home, working on his father's farm, but when he became of age, he rented land from the elder Johnson, and worked this until 1907, when he moved to Seneca, Kans. Two years later he engaged in the poultry business for a time, but retired, intending to take life easy the remainder of his days. But he could not be idle, and in October, 1915, he was back in the harness again, managing his poultry business, of which he disposed March 1, 1916. Mr. Johnson owns 160 acres of land in Richmond township, Nemaha county, and also has considerable property in Seneca.

In 1880, he was married to Ellen Burger, and to this marriage these six children were born: Mrs. Effie Stevens, of Bethany, Neb.; Louis, deceased; Claud, farmer, Richmond township, Nemaha county; Cleve, cashier at Missouri Pacific depot, Seneca, Kans.; Wanda, wife of E. Britt, Seneca, Kans.; Mildred, living with her parents.

Mrs. Johnson was born December 26, 1855, near London, Ontario, Canada. She is the daughter of Hiram and Jane (Metcalf) Burger, who came to Nemaha county in 1855, where her father was a farmer.

Mr. Johnson is affiliated with the Democratic party. He is not a member of any church, but attends.

**Elmar Roy Mathews.**—This is a story of a man who has reached success through the university of hard knocks. Keen judgment and efficient business management have brought him to conspicuous success among the business men of Seneca, Kans., where he conducts a grocery store.

Mr. Mathews is a native Kansan, having been born in Seneca, January 15, 1870. He is the son of Hiram W. and Sarah Jane Skinner (Wetmore) Mathews, to whom two children were born, Charles

E., a retired farmer of Seneca, and Elmar Roy, the subject of this sketch. The father was born in Indiana, and for further details of the parents of Elmar Mathews, read the sketch of his brother, Charles E., which appears elsewhere in this volume.

Elmar R. Mathews grew up in his birthplace, Seneca, and attended the city schools. In 1892 he went to Shenandoah, Iowa, where he took a business course. In 1894 he returned to Seneca and was employed in the Wells law office as stenographer, which position he held until 1896. For several years immediately following, he worked at various businesses, and later began farming near Seneca, where he owned 100 acres of land. In 1913 he came back to town, buying the grocery establishment which he now operates, and which ranks with the most up-to-date stores in the State. His business is handled in the most economical way and he numbers among his patrons some of the best residents of Seneca. He lives in his comfortable home on the outskirts of town, where he has twenty acres of land well kept, which provides a beautiful setting for his home.

In 1895 he was married to Mary Grace McCulloch, and to this marriage four children were born: Two dying in infancy; Mary, born in 1903, and Paul, born in 1910, both living at home. Mrs. Mathews is a daughter of Samuel McCulloch. She is a graduate of the Shenandoah College of Music, Shenandoah, Iowa, and is a very talented woman.

Mr. Mathews is not a member of any church, though he attends religious services quite regularly. He belongs to the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Modern Woodmen of America.

**Ira K. Wells.**—Inasmuch as it has been demonstrated that heredity and environment play a distinct and important part in the development of the individual, and forms the basic groundwork of whatever he is expected to accomplish during his span of life, then Ira K. Wells, able attorney of Seneca, Kans., was endowed beyond the ordinary, and has undoubtedly inherited many distinguishing characteristics of his father, the late Judge Abijah Wells. He of whom this review is written was reared in the legal atmosphere, and had the advantages of a practical training under the tutelage of his father, who was a leader of the Kansas bar and a jurist of note. A thorough academic education preceded his practical training, and the two combined resulted in a finished product—an attorney of acumen and decided ability.

Ira K. Wells, of the firm of Wells & Wells, legal practitioners, Seneca, Kans., was born in Seneca, June 18, 1871, and is a son of the late Judge Abijah Wells, concerning whose life an extended review appears in this volume of historical annals of Nemaha county. Mr. Wells received his primary education in the public schools of his native city, and graduated from the Seneca High School. His aptitude for the higher studies, and his marked preference for the profession of law, demonstrated that his inherent ability and proclivities destined him for the bar, and he accordingly matriculated in the law department of the Kan-

sas University, graduating therefrom with the degree of Bachelor of Laws, in 1893. He immediately became associated with his father in the practice of law, and upon his father's demise, in 1915, assumed full charge of the law practice of Wells & Wells.

The political and civic career of Ira K. Wells has been a noteworthy one, and has been marked by devotion to duty, which has won him the confidence and praise of his fellow citizens. He, like his illustrious father, has been politically allied with the Republican party, and stands high in the councils of his party. Mr. Wells was elected to the office of county attorney in 1900, while serving as city attorney of Seneca. He filled the office of county attorney successfully for two years, and then devoted himself to his private practice. However, he is the present city attorney of Seneca. He served as a member of the board of education of Seneca and took considerable interest in the cause of education, and is still interested in this phase of the civic advancement of the city. The latest and highest honor which has come to him from his political party was his selection as a delegate to the Republican national convention at Chicago, held June 7, 1916, from the First Congressional district of Kansas. For the past fourteen years, Mr. Wells has been chief of the Seneca Fire Department, and it is through his influence and guidance that the fire department of the city has been kept to a considerable degree of efficiency.

Mr. Wells was married May 7, 1896, to Miss Zula M. Thompson, a daughter of the late Judge J. F. Thompson, former district judge, and a sister of United States Senator William H. Thompson. This union has been blessed with two children, as follows: Loretta, aged sixteen years, a member of the senior class of the Seneca High School, and Dora, aged thirteen, freshman in the city High School.

Mr. Wells is a member of the Universalist church, and is the present chairman of the board of directors of this church, which his father assisted in founding. He has been one of the foremost active supporters of the community movement in Seneca, and is president of the Seneca Community Association.

He is fraternally affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and is high in the councils of this order, being a member of Seneca Lodge, No. 39, Blue Lodge; affiliated with the chapter and also Seneca Commandery, No. 39, and has taken the degree of the Mystic Shrine at Leavenworth, Kans. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen and the Knights and Ladies of Security. As an attorney, Ira K. Wells is an unqualified success; his citizenship is in keeping with his high standing in the community, and he is ever found in the forefront of all civic movements tending to the advancement of the best interests of Seneca and Nemaha county; his breadth of mind, genial, whole souled manner and attributes and the ability to make and retain friendships, bid fair to place him in the high places in the years to come. Good nature and an obliging dis-

position have endeared him to his friends, who are legion, and he is deservedly popular among all classes.

His literary hobby is history, especially when it concerns his home county and State, and this volume has been decidedly enhanced in value by his contributions to the end that the people of Nemaha county may have a work worth while.

**Miss Abbie W. Kennard.**—Kansas presents opportunities for women to enter the learned professions and the marts of trade and finance, not usually offered the feminine residents of older States. It is not unusual to find women of decided ability who are capable of holding their own in competition with the stronger sex in the various cities and towns of the State. Miss Abbie W. Kennard, real estate and insurance agent, Seneca, Kans., is a good example of the successful business woman of the present age. Alone and unaided except by her own efforts and spurred by ambition, she has won a substantial place for herself in the real estate and insurance field.

Abbie W. Kennard was born at Barnesville, Belmont county, Ohio, August 27, 1860, and is a daughter of Eli and Mary (Edgerton) Kennard. Eli Kennard was born near Mt. Pleasant, Ohio, in 1816, and was a son of William and Rachel (Drubree) Kennard, descended from old Quaker stock, which had its origin in America with the advent of the followers of William Penn in Pennsylvania in the seventeenth century. William and Rachel Kennard were both natives of Bucks county, Pennsylvania. William was a noted Quaker preacher who traveled extensively over the eastern States, expounding the doctrine of his church. Eli Kennard was a miller, tinsmith, and farmer during his life, and died at his home in Barnesville, Ohio, in 1885. He was the father of the following children: Anna and William, deceased; Jesse, engaged in real estate business at Lawrence, Kans.; Rachel, deceased; Mary, living at Barnesville, Ohio; Sarah J., a teacher in the Quaker schools of Philadelphia; Alfred E., Barnesville, Ohio; Elizabeth, deceased; Abbie, with whom this review is directly concerned, and who was the sixth child born. The mother of the foregoing children was born in 1824 at Summerton, Ohio, and was a daughter of James and Anna (Hall) Edgerton, both of whom were natives of North Carolina. The Hall family left their Carolina home and traveled to Harrisonville, Ohio, via the ox wagon route in the early days of the settlement of the Buckeye State. Mrs. Kennard died in 1900.

Miss Abbie Kennard received her elementary education in the Friends' Boarding School at Barnesville, Ohio, and after graduating from this school, she pursued a normal teachers' course at the West-town Friends' Normal School in Pennsylvania. She taught school in Pennsylvania until 1887, at which time she came to Seneca, Kans., and joined her brother, Jesse, who had come West, and established a variety store in Seneca. She remained with her brother until his removal to Lawrence, Kans., in 1910, and was appointed acting postmaster in

that year as his successor. Previously she had served as her brother's deputy in the postoffice. Miss Kennard began writing insurance in 1908, and is now handling fire, bondings and life insurance for eight well established companies. It was only natural for her to become interested in real estate, and she has been successful in handling Kansas and western lands and city properties. She has an interest in land in Barber county, Kansas, and is a shareholder and treasurer of the Best Slate Company, of Kansas City, Mo., whose field headquarters and plant are located at Nema, Ark.

While Miss Kennard has remained true to her Quaker teachings and training, she has become actively interested in the community church movement in Seneca, and is connected with the World's Christian Temperance Union in a prominent way, being much interested in the uplifting of humanity and the betterment of social conditions—a field of endeavor for which her birth and training has eminently fitted her. Miss Kennard is one of the founders of the rest room in Seneca, and has been treasurer of the organization supporting this valuable addition to the civic and social life of Seneca. She is in sympathy with the progressive political movement, and has been active in civic and political matters in Seneca. She has served as city treasurer of the city for three years, and well merits the confidence and high esteem in which she is held by all who know her.

**Otto A. Kelm**, one of the progressive business men of Seneca, has lived all of his life in the town where he now resides. He was born September 19, 1876, in Seneca, Kans. His parents were Albert and Anna (Pertosek) Kelm, to whom were born these three children: Otto, of whom this sketch is to treat at length; Fred, carpenter in Seneca, Kans.; Anna, living with her parents.

The father was born in Beto, Prussia, where he was taught the shoemaker's trade as he grew up. When a young man, he left Germany, and on coming to America, migrated west to St. Joseph, Mo. Shortly afterwards, he came to Seneca, Kans., and opened a shoeshop which he conducted in a prosperous fashion. Later he conducted a hardware store for George Williams in Seneca. In 1899, he died at Seneca, at the age of fifty-seven years. The mother was born in Austria, and left there when a child, coming to Nebraska City, Neb. She was married at St. Joseph, Mo., and now lives in Seneca.

Otto Kelm attended the public schools of his native city, and after completing the elementary grades, began working as a laborer. At the age of eighteen, he went to work in a bakeshop to learn the baker's trade, and in 1908, opened a shop of his own, which has proven an unusual success. His natural business ability and excellent service and bakery goods account, in large measure, for his business success. Gradually, he invested in other fields also, and is now a property owner and a shareholder of the Seneca Fair Association, among other things.

Mr. Kelm is a member of the Democratic party, and is interested

in all public questions, though he has never sought political preferment. He belongs to the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and has served as high priest and master of that order, always taking great interest in the affairs of his order.

In looking back over the career of Mr. Kelm, the striking thing about it is the wonderful rise he has made. Starting out without resources of any kind except determination and willingness to work, Mr. Kelm has risen until now he is one of Seneca's leading business men, and owns one of the finest bakeries in the State of Kansas.

**William Dennis.**—The career of William Dennis, mayor of Seneca, Kans., has been an interesting and noteworthy one from several viewpoints. He is a member of one of the oldest pioneer families of Kansas, and has had a political career which is worthy of mention in a favorable sense, having been twice elected sheriff of the county, filled several minor offices, and is now giving the city of Seneca one of the best administrations in its history. His popularity, ability to make and retain friendships, wide influence, his activity in behalf of the people and in advancing the interests of his home city and county, have been such as to place Mr. Dennis in the front rank of Nemaha county citizens.

The history of the Dennis family in Kansas began sixty years ago when Batson Dennis, grandfather of William Dennis, accompanied by his wife and family of five sons and a daughter, made the long and arduous trip from Illinois to the Kansas plains by means of ox teams and took up a large acreage of government land in Nemaha county, where they preempted land, for which they paid \$1.25 an acre.

Batson Dennis settled on land directly south of Seneca, and his five sons, Samuel, Joseph, Jesse, John H. and Batson settled on claims along the Nemaha river south of Seneca. John H. Dennis, father of William Dennis, took up a homestead one mile south of the present town of Kelly, Kans. These were pioneer days in Kansas, and William Dennis remembers well the plentitude of wild game which abounded in the woods and plains bordering on the valley of the Nemaha.

The prairie land was broken up with the oxen, which had furnished their means of transportation from Crawford county, Illinois. Batson Dennis married a Miss Callender, who was his faithful helpmeet for many years in creating a home in the wilderness of Nemaha county. To Batson Dennis and his pioneer associates enough honors and encomiums cannot be given for accomplishing the great and arduous task of breaking the way for the later settlers and proving to the world that Kansas could be made into a comfortable place of habitation.

William Dennis was born in Crawford county, Illinois, June 9, 1854, and is a son of John H. and Ellen (Rich) Dennis. John Dennis was born in Kentucky, September 28, 1827, and was a son of Batson Dennis, who migrated from Kentucky to Illinois in the early forties. His father was a native of Kentucky, and his mother was born in Virginia, both of whom were descended from old American families from the Atlantic



WILLIAM DENNIS, MAYOR OF SENECA, KANSAS.





seaboard. After the migration of the Dennis family to Kansas in 1856, John Dennis improved the land which he bought from the government, and became an extensive cattle raiser. This was due to the fact that there was much free range in those early days and the conveniences for grazing large herds of cattle were at hand. John Dennis died at his Kansas home in 1898. He was twice married, his first wife being the mother of William Dennis, and who bore him four children, all of whom are now deceased but William, the subject of this review. Mrs. Ellen (Rich) Dennis died in 1856. The second of John H. Dennis was Miss Nancy (Thompson), a native of Indiana, who is now living in Seneca, aged eighty-two years.

William Dennis got little schooling when he was a boy. He attended subscription schools for about three months out of the year until he attained the age of eighteen years, at which time he began to work out by the month for wages of \$20 per month. He worked on the farm of Joshua Mitchell, and then started in the live stock business on his own account. He continued buying and shipping live stock for about eight years and then married and began farming on his own account. His first investment was in 120 acres of land near Kelly, Kans., which he cultivated until 1887. He then filled various official positions for some years, engaged in the grain business at Kelly, Kans., for a time, and purchased his present home place at Seneca in 1908.

For some years Mr. Dennis has devoted his attention to racing horses, and maintains a string of thoroughbreds. For the past twenty years he has been a breeder of thoroughbreds, and has been very successful. His horses are in demand in all parts of the United States, and he has received as high as \$2,000 for a single thoroughbred. Many animals bred by him have made excellent records.

His land holdings in Nemaha county have become considerable, and Mr. Dennis is one of the most extensive farmers in this section of Kansas. He has accumulated a fortune in Kansas land through wise investments. Early in his boyhood days he became inured to the hardest kind of work, and when ten years old he hauled goods from the nearest shipping point with his uncle, Mick Thompson, for Charles Crappel, one of the early day merchants of Seneca.

The official career of William Dennis began in 1887, when he was elected trustee of Harrison township, and held the office for three years. In the fall of 1889, he was elected sheriff of Nemaha county, and held the office for four years, from January 1, 1890, to January 1, 1894. He then farmed for a time and was appointed postmaster at Goff, Kans., and held this office for three years. He was again elected sheriff of the county in 1904, and held the office for the following four years. He was faithful in the discharge of his duties and rendered conscientious and devoted service to the people of the county in every public position which he held. Mr. Dennis was elected mayor of Seneca in 1914, and is giving the city an excellent administration.

William Dennis was married in February, 1889, to Miss Olive Downey, who was born February 14, 1869, in Platte county, Missouri, a daughter of Madison and Kathrine (Mullen) Downey, natives of Madison county, Ohio. Madison Downey was a farmer and teacher, who immigrated to Kansas in 1870, and engaged in farming near Atchison.

Mr. Dennis is a Democrat in his political affiliations, and is one of the influential and popular leaders of his party in Nemaha county and Kansas. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

The political history of Nemaha county does not record an instance of a Democrat being twice elected to the same office in past years, and Mr. Dennis bears the distinction of being the only Democrat who was ever twice elected to the office of county sheriff. His election took place in the face of the fact that he had a Republican majority of over 856 votes to overcome. He was the first Democratic trustee ever elected in Harrison township, and defeated his opponent, whose ticket lead the field, by a majority of eighty votes. The personal popularity of William Dennis is such that he is known by almost every man, woman and child in Nemaha county. As a campaigner, he has few equals or superiors. As mayor of Seneca, he is making a record which will go down in history as the most constructive up to the present time. During Mayor Dennis' regime the main street of the city has been graded and oiled under his personal supervision and with his actual assistance. The new city hall is being erected, which will be a milestone in the city's progress. Few towns in Kansas or anywhere can boast of a more faithful or more energetic executive than Seneca.

**Benjamin F. Hart**, retired farmer, Seneca, Kans., was born in Putnam county, Indiana, October 22, 1847, and is a son of William J. and Mary E. (Collins) Hart, natives of Kentucky. William J. Hart was born in Kentucky in 1823, and was a son of Thomas and Joyce (Hewitt) Hart, who were among the pioneer settlers of Indiana. Both father and grandfather were tillers of the soil. William J. and Mary Hart were the parents of seven children, of whom five are living. The wife and mother was born in 1826, and died in 1880. William J. Hart removed with his family to Kansas as early as 1858, and settled in Brown county, Kansas, where he bought 160 acres of virgin prairie soil, which he broke up with six yoke of oxen. He developed his farm into a valuable piece of property, and died in the home which he erected, in 1876.

Benjamin F. Hart was eleven years old when the Hart family cast their fortunes in Kansas, and it fell to his lot to witness the growth and development of a great State, and to have an integral part in the making of a county. He attended school in a primitive log school house with hewn log slabs for seats and desks. After his marriage he bought 160 acres of land adjoining his father's farm and prospered to such an extent that he eventually became the owner of 550 acres of land in Brown and Nemaha counties. This land he sold and invested the pro-

ceeds in a fine farm of 333 acres two miles north of Seneca. While this farm was improved at the time of purchase, Mr. Hart added substantially to the buildings and fencing, and became an extensive feeder of live stock. He successfully followed his life avocation until 1895, when, feeling that he had accomplished enough for one man in a lifetime of endeavor, he retired to a comfortable home in Seneca in 1895. Mr. Hart has prospered exceedingly during his long residence of fifty-seven years in Kansas, and is the owner of 900 acres of good land. He is a stockholder and a director of the National Bank of Seneca, and is one of the city's most substantial citizens.

This pioneer Kansan was married in 1870 to Miss Martha Letchworthy, who has borne him the following children: Mrs. Minnie McKellips, of Nemaha county, Kansas; Charles, a garage and automobile man at Seneca; Zebelon, living in Nemaha county; Benjamin, railroad station agent at Summerfield, Kans.; Mrs. Fannie Firstenberger, Seneca; Valentine, railroad agent, Glen Elder, Kans. The mother of this fine family was born at Parkville, Mo., in 1850, and is a daughter of Thomas and Mary (Barnes) Letchworthy, natives of Kentucky, who immigrated to Kansas in the early pioneer days. Thomas Letchworthy was a plasterer by trade.

Mr. Hart is an independent thinker and voter along political lines, and does not wear the yoke of any political party. He has been prominent in city affairs, and served for six years as a member of the city council. It was during his term as councilman that the electric light and power plant was taken over by the city and operated for the benefit of all the people. He was influential, also in having the old time board sidewalks dispensed with and replaced by concrete pavements. He is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and has served as treasurer of the Seneca Masonic lodge. Hard work, economy, and rigid attention to details have placed this Kansas pioneer and his wife in the position of wealth and comfort which they are enjoying today.

**Lorrain N. Simon.**—As an example of the successful business man, who during his prime, accumulated a comfortable surplus, and who, in his later years, retires from the strife of business competition to enjoy the quiet and easy life of leisure, Lorrain N. Simon is to be remembered. Engaging at various times in the furniture, grocery and hardware businesses, Mr. Simon has proved his versatility and the fact that he is the holder of 1,100 acres of fine, fertile soil, attests his business acumen.

It was on December 3, 1858, that Lorrain Simon was born. His parents, Adam and Mary J. (Toler) Simon, resided in Noble county, Ohio, at the time. For the life story of Adam Simon, see sketch in another part of this history. Coming to Kansas at the early age of ten years, Lorrain grew up on his father's farm, and lived the conventional small boy's life on the farm. Mixed in with plenty of hard work were infrequent sessions at the district school. Being proficient in his stud-

ies, he later went to the high school at Seneca, Kans., thus gaining advantages which all farmers' sons in those days were not given. After finishing high school at the age of seventeen years, he taught school for a period of twelve years, while farming, in which occupation he remained until about 1893 when he moved to Seneca, to engage in the furniture business. An undertaking establishment was operated in conjunction with the furniture store. After conducting this enterprise four years, Mr. Simon sold it, and became interested in the grocery business. But shortly afterward, a good proposition was offered to him, and he left his business to take up farming. However, business exerted a fascination for him, and, in 1904, he went back into the mercantile life, buying a hardware stock at Goff, Kans., which he operated until 1913, when he retired and moved to Seneca. While these numerous adventures into business were going on, Mr. Simon was accumulating land, and now owns some of the best in the county.

In 1880, on November 14, Lorrain Simon was married to Jennie M. Ford. To this union six children were born as follows: Nellie, wife of Dr. D. C. Smith, Girard, Kans., graduated from Seneca business college and studied music in Chicago; Raymond, deceased; Clayton K., postmaster of Goff, Kans.; Ford, bookkeeper in sugar beet factory, Brush, Colo.; Eunice, wife of S. D. Morris, assistant cashier of First National Bank, Goff, Kans.; Loren D., student in the Seneca High School, winner of football loving cup, member of 1915 football team of Seneca High School. Mr. Simon has given all of his children a high school education.

Mrs. Jennie (Ford) Simon was born January 15, 1861, in Nemaha county, and was the daughter of John M. and Eliza J. (Murphy) Ford. Her father was born in Ohio, and came to Nemaha county in 1856. He freighted from Atchison to Denver, driving a yoke of oxen, making the trip in three months. His family lived at Seneca during the time John was freighting, and he rejoined them there after his retirement. In 1913, he died at the ripe old age of eighty-four, after having lived a varied and useful, as well as adventurous, life. His wife, who died in 1902, was born in Delaware, and was seventy-three years old at the time of her death.

Mr. Simon early, after reaching the legal age, affiliated himself with the Democratic party and, since that time, has cast his votes with it. Although he is not a member of any church, he attends regularly and contributes generously to the activities of the church. In addition to holding membership in the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows lodges, Mr. Simon is a charter member of the Knights and Ladies of Security, as is his wife. They have both been members of that order for twenty-two years.

Mr. Simon has been a representative business man of his community, always standing for progress and willing to do all in his power to advance the welfare of his city. His business was always run effi-

ciently, and he preserved to a nicety the balance between business and service. Though he was always ready to demand his rights, he was always willing to extend privileges for the accomodation of his customers. In short, he is one of the men, to whom the community looks for solid support in any project for the good of all, and for the welfare of the commercial interests of Seneca.

**Adam Simon.**—In the days following the Civil war, many sturdy men brought their families West to try for a livelihood on the undeveloped country of Missouri and Kansas. The pioneers had come before them, but there was still plenty to do, and he who made his living honestly had to labor long and faithfully. Adam Simon was one of this class, who came West to Kansas shortly after the war and laid the foundations of his success.

Adam Simon was born in 1833 in Noble county, Ohio. His parents were Christian and Harriet (Armstrong) Simon, the father having been born in Virginia in 1814. At the age of fourteen, he went to Morgan county, Ohio, now known as Noble county, where he followed at different times the trades of bricklayer and stonemason, and farming as well. His father, Christian, was of German descent, and his mother, of English. In 1853, Adam Simon was married to Mary J. Powell, a native of Ohio, who died there in 1856. Two children were born of this marriage: Rhoda Ann, wife of James Mathews, deceased; Helen, deceased. The following year after his wife's death he was married to Mary J. Toler, who was born August 4, 1835, in Virginia. She was a daughter of Absalom and Jane (Grey) Toler. The mother was a native of Ireland, and her father was born near Richmond, Va. She died in October, 1891. The four children born to this union were: George, deceased, who was a stockman; Lorrain, whose life story will be found in this book; Ida, now Mrs. McNeal, of Washington county, Colorado; Earl D., deceased.

In 1869 Adam Simon came to Centralia, Kans., where he bought 160 acres of land in Mitchell township, Nemaha county, and erected a house 18x28 feet, one and one-half stories, frame. Later he put up a frame barn. The land, of course, was unbroken when Adam Simon took possession of it, and he spent some time in breaking it for cultivation. He farmed it until 1885, when he retired and moved to Seneca, where he died in July, 1916. During this period, he homesteaded 320 acres of land in Colorado, improving it and raising 500 bushels of grain on twenty acres of land. At the time of his death, he owned 480 acres of land.

Mr. Simon did not confine himself to farming, however, for in 1871 and 1872, he represented his fellow citizens in the State legislature, having been elected on the Independent ticket. While in the legislature, he acquitted himself with credit, and at all times, kept a sharp lookout for the welfare of his constituents. Later he served as township assessor.

Mr. Simon was a member of the Methodist church. He belonged to the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and to the chapter and Knight Templars. He was made a Mason in 1864 in Sharon, Ohio.

This is a life which any man would be proud to live, full of hard work, containing also a period of service to the interests of his State, and loyalty to his friends and community.

**William Burt Murphy.**—An engineer of a municipal water works has to master a multitude of technical details to be able to operate his plant with any success at all. In fact, such a position requires such high ability that most men spend several years in schools of engineering to learn the intricacies of the work. But William Burt Murphy, chief engineer of the Seneca water system, is a man of unusual mechanical gift, and succeeded in learning the secrets of this great enterprise without the assistance of teachers. He has studied the problems of engineering alone, and has mastered them as anyone at all familiar with the success of his work at the municipal plant can testify.

Mr. Murphy was born December 22, 1859, in Cherokee county, Georgia. To his parents, Franklin and Phoebe A. (Worley) Murphy, two children were born: William, of whom this history is to treat, and Dora J., wife of Mr. Linn, of Rocky Ford, Colorado. The father was born in Georgia where he farmed until the outbreak of the war of the rebellion, in which he gave his life for the cause he believed to be right. The mother was born in Georgia also, on October 6, 1836. After the death of her husband in the Civil war, she was married a second time to Joseph E. Hocker, a native of Indiana, who practiced law in Seneca, Kans., where he served as justice of the peace. He was in business in Lincoln, Kans., also prior to his removal to Seneca. By a former marriage, he was the father of three boys and an equal number of girls, but no children were born to the second marriage.

William Murphy, of whom this sketch is written, came to Seneca, Kans., with his maternal grandparents, W. W. and Licenia (Holden) Worley, natives of Georgia. In his native State, the grandfather had been a Baptist minister, but after coming to Nemaha county, Kansas, he followed the occupation of farming. Both grandparents are now dead.

William lived on the farm until he was fifteen years old, when he came to Seneca where he attended school a short time. For several years, he farmed in Richmond township, Nemaha county, but believing that greater opportunities lay in store in the city, he returned to Seneca where he held positions in grocery stores, drug stores, and in the lumber yard. However, life in the store and office was too cramped, and he secured a position as fireman on the Missouri Pacific railroad in 1888. Four years later he qualified as an engineer, and remained with the company in that capacity until 1895, when he resigned. When Seneca put in its water plant, he fired the first boiler. As the plant grew larger, remained in charge until 1907. He became assistant

engineer again in 1910, and in 1912, was appointed chief engineer of the electric and water systems of Seneca. This is a position which obviously requires a high degree of technical skill and ability. But Mr. Murphy has both in unusual amounts, and is giving the utmost satisfaction in his operation of these utilities. He owns considerable real estate in Seneca, and has a fine modern residence.

In 1885 he was married to Mary E. Ridenour, and to this union four children have been born: Raymond, stationary engineer at Hamilton, Mo.; Glenn, married Irma Bruner in February, 1916, a daughter of R. T. Bruner, former county treasurer; Earl C. and Juanita, all living at home. Mrs. Murphy was born in Paulding county, Ohio, in 1856, and is the daughter of Granville and Sarah (Green) Ridenour, natives of Ohio, who came to Nemaha county, Kansas, in the early days. Before her marriage, Mrs. Murphy was a milliner and dressmaker. She has lived in Seneca since she was very young, having come there in 1866, three years before her husband. She attended the Seneca schools along with her sisters and brother. It might be interesting to know that she had thirteen sisters and one brother to grow up with her, and are all living now except one sister.

Mr. Murphy is an independent Republican, taking an active interest in political affairs. His preference lies with the Republican party, but when a good man is running, he gets Mr. Murphy's vote, regardless of his party connections, for it is the man, not the party, that counts with Mr. Murphy. He is a member of the Congregational church, and of the Knights of Pythias, and Ancient Order of United Workmen lodges.

**Peter P. Stein.**—He whose name heads this review is one of the youngest Kansas Bankers, and has made a name for himself in his chosen profession, and has shown ability which places him in the front rank of the financial men of northern Kansas and his home city of Seneca. Peter P. Stein, cashier of the First National Bank of Seneca, Kans., is a native born Kansan, whose parents were pioneer settlers in Nemaha county, his father having been the pioneer furniture dealer and cabinet maker of the city.

Peter P. Stein was born in Seneca, Kans., July 4, 1879, and is a son of Mathias and Elizabeth (Daltrup) Stein, who were parents of five sons and five daughters. Mathias Stein was born in Germany, November 25, 1829, and learned the cabinet maker's trade in his native land. He immigrated to America in 1860, and resided in eastern Iowa until after the beginning of the Civil war, and then came West to Nemaha county, Kansas. He enlisted for service in the Union army at the time of the Price invasion of Kansas and served as cook of his company in a Kansas regiment. He first cultivated a farm in Clear Creek township, and farmed on his own account east of Axtell where a hill named in his honor is yet known as Stein hill. He left the farm and located in Seneca, where he started the first furniture store in the city. In



those days he made nearly all of his own furniture, and made some very durable and high class work. He remained in the furniture business until 1885, when he sold out and retired. He died May 24, 1892. The mother of Peter P. Stein was born in Germany, August 4, 1844, and died in Seneca, May 24, 1883.

Peter P. Stein attended the parochial schools of Seneca and pursued a course of higher studies at St. Benedict's College in Atchison, Kans. His first employment was as clerk in a general store from 1897 to 1901. In 1901 he became bookkeeper of the National Bank of Seneca, and was promoted to the post of cashier of this bank in 1907, a position which he held until his resignation in 1912, to accept the post of cashier of the First National Bank. Mr. Stein is also second vice president of the Seneca State Savings Bank. While the banking business has always received his devoted and undivided attention, Mr. Stein is owner of land in Nemaha county, and western Kansas, and is one of the city's younger substantial citizens.

Mr. Stein was married in 1902 to Miss Frances Waltkamp, and four children have been born to this union, namely: Raphael; Vincent; Sylvester, and Celestine. Mrs. Stein was born in Des Moines, Iowa, December 31, 1881, and is a daughter of Henry Waltkamp, Sr., a native of Germany and early settler of Nemaha county.

Mr. and Mrs. Stein are members of the Catholic church. Mr. Stein is affiliated with the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association. He is a Democrat in politics and takes an active and influential part in the affairs of his party. In 1904, Mr. Stein was elected treasurer of the city of Seneca, and served in that capacity for eight years.

**Andrew Jackson Trees.**—The late Andrew Jackson Trees, of Sabetha, Kans. was born near Moscow, Clermont county, Ohio, September 26, 1828, and was a son of John and Nancy (Hodges) Trees. The Trees family is of German origin, and John Trees was born in Pennsylvania, where his forebears had settled in the early days of the settlement of the Keystone State. He was a pioneer settler in Clermont county, Ohio, and died on the farm which he cleared from the wilderness in the Buckeye State. His wife, Nancy (Hodges) Trees, mother of Andrew Jackson Trees, was born in North Carolina, migrated with her parents to Ohio, there married, and died February 2, 1877, in her ninetieth year. John Trees was born March 19, 1833, in Clermont county, Ohio, and died at riage of John and Nancy Trees occurred August 5, 1806. The Hodges family is an old American family, and it will thus be seen that Andrew Jackson Trees was a product of sturdy German and pure American stock.

Andrew Jackson Trees was reared to the life of a farmer on the family homestead in Clermont county, Ohio, and immigrated to Kansas in 1872. He settled on 160 acres of land in Walnut township, Brown county, which he developed into a fine farm. Mr. Trees prospered and





FOUR GENERATIONS OF KANSANS:

ANDREW JACKSON TREES AND WIFE, MR. AND MRS. OSCAR ASHLEY,  
MR. AND MRS. FRANK McENERNEY AND SON, QUENTIN.



owned considerable land, which he divided among his children prior to his retirement to a home in Sabetha in 1886. His demise occurred in Sabetha, May 11, 1914. His was an upright and honorable life, filled with hard work and good deeds; he was a kind husband and father, and did well by his children.

The marriage of Andrew Jackson Trees and Frances A. Brown occurred in Clermont county, Ohio, November 9, 1854. Frances A. (Brown) Trees was born March 19, 1833, in Clermont county, Ohio, and died at Sabetha, Monday, August 7, 1916. She was a daughter of John and Sarah (Brannen) Brown. John Brown, father of Mrs. Trees, was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1801, and learned the trade of cabinet maker. After his immigration to America, he followed farming in Clermont county, Ohio, where his marriage with Sarah Brannen occurred, July 1, 1832, near the town of Felicity. His wife, Sarah, was of Irish descent, and bore him eight children. John Brown died in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1851; Sarah Brown was born in Kentucky in 1811, and died in 1876.

Nine children were born to Andrew Jackson and Frances A. Trees, five of whom died in infancy. The four living children are: Mrs. Sarah R. Ashley, living on a farm in Nemaha county; Miss Mattie Trees, Sabetha, Kans.; Elizabeth, wife of J. F. Lukert, Sabetha, Kans.; (see biography of J. F. Lukert); John, a farmer living one mile south of Sabetha.

Miss Mattie Trees, who is living at the family home in Sabetha, was born September 24, 1860, in Clermont county, Ohio, and attended the district schools of Ohio and Brown county, Kansas, until she was sixteen years of age. She then began teaching in district No. 20, of Rock Creek township, Nemaha county, and taught in the district schools for six years. She also taught the Spring Grove school and spent six years in the school rooms of Brown county. In 1889, she began teaching the fifth and sixth grades of the Sabetha schools, and worked her way upward to a high school position. She retired from her profession in 1906, and has since devoted her attention to the care of her parents and looking after her property interests, which are considerable, and include Sabetha property and 280 acres of land in Brown and Nemaha counties. For a more extended account of the great educational work accomplished by Miss Trees in behalf of the youth of Nemaha county, the reader is referred to the chapter on "Schools and Education."

**Joseph J. Buser.**—The business success achieved by Joseph J. Buser, manager of the Buser Auto Company, Seneca, Kans., is a striking illustration of what can be accomplished by the individual who sees opportunity in his home community, and is able to grasp it and work his way upward to wealth and prestige. Mr. Buser is a native born Kansan, and is a son of pioneer settlers in Nemaha county. Few were the luxuries and even comforts of his boyhood; schooled in the hard life of the frontier era of Kansas development which enabled him

to build up a magnificent physique; broadened by practical experience, he is one of the leading figures of Nemaha county, because of his accomplishments and citizenship.

Joseph J. Buser was born on a pioneer farm in Capioma township, Nemaha county, February 5, 1869, and is a son of Peter and Mary Elizabeth (Wempe) Buser. Peter Buser, his father, was born in the city of St. Louis, September 27, 1839, and was a son of Peter and Catharine Buser, natives of Germany, who immigrated to America and settled in St. Louis, Mo., in the thirties. Peter Buser, the grandfather, lost his life by accident in 1869. His widow married a Mr. Burns, who lived in southwestern Illinois until their removal to Nemaha county, Kansas in 1875. Both died in this county. Peter Buser removed with his family to Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1867, and purchased a half section of land in Capioma township for \$2,000. He developed his large farm, and was an extensive breeder and feeder of hogs. He prospered until his untimely death at Sabetha, Kans. His death was caused by a runaway team on the streets of Sabetha, March 24, 1885.

Peter Buser was twice married, his first wife being a Miss Carty who bore him one child, namely: Mrs. Catharine Wahlmeier, of Jennings, Kans., who was born February 16, 1863, at Mud Creek, Ill. His second marriage took place August 22, 1865, at St. Labora, Ill., with Mary Elizabeth Wempe, and this union was blessed with the following children: Mary, born February 14, 1867, at Mud Creek, Ill., and married June 6, 1889, in Capioma township to Antone Wahlmeier; Joseph John, the subject of this review; Peter Paul, born January 25, 1871, in Capioma township, married November 23, 1893, to Mary Fox, and is a partner in the Buser Auto Company; Anton F., born November 20, 1872, married at Marysville, Kans., November 29, 1905, to Katie Schmidt, and is engaged in the oil business at Wichita, Kans.; Clement A., born January 2, 1875, married to Anna Stein, May 8, 1900, at Seneca, Kans., and is associated with the Buser Auto Company; John B., born March 30, 1877, and is engaged in business with his brother, Anton, at Wichita; Henry J., born July 14, 1879, married at Axtell, Kans., to Libbie Byrne, engaged in the oil business at Wichita; Mrs. Elizabeth Rochel, born November 28, 1881, married January 26, 1904, at Capioma, and is residing on a farm in Capioma township; Dan G., born February 19, 1884, married at Germantown, Kans., June 6, 1905, to Ida Wintersheet, and is engaged in the oil business at Halstead, Kans. The mother of these children was born at Tentopolis, Ill., December 19, 1845, and died in Capioma township, December 4, 1911. She was a daughter of Herman Henry Wempe, a native of Germany. (See history of the Wempe family under the biography of Anton Wempe.)

Joseph J. Buser lived on the home farm, and assisted in the cultivation of the family estate until he engaged in the general merchandise business for his mother at Fidelity, Kans., in the spring of 1892. On

May 1, 1895, he came to Seneca, Kans., and bought a half interest with Hon. Andrew J. Felt in a bakery business. This partnership continued until the fall of 1896, when he purchased his partner's interest, and conducted the bakery business alone for some time, then consolidated with Christ Schmitt and John Meinberg. This partnership continued until the spring of 1897 when Mr. Buser sold his interest in the bakery to Schmitt and Meinberg. In the fall of 1897, he started the Leader dry goods store in the Stein building, with a stock of goods valued at \$2,800. In the fall of 1904, he engaged in the clothing business and started a clothing store in the Ford building with Ben J. Stein as manager. In the fall of 1906, Mr. Buser purchased the general store of P. L. Gibson at Denton, Kans., and operated this store for four months, and then sold the business to Buser and Stein. During that same fall, he sold his clothing store for \$14,000, but continued as owner of the Leader store until December 8, 1905, at which time he sold this establishment to C. R. Bricker for \$14,450. In the spring of 1907, he purchased the Westhoff stock of goods and moved it to the old Leader building, which he owns. October 25, 1911, he again sold the Leader store to Honeywell and Stein for \$24,000. January 12, 1912, he purchased the garage, formerly operated by George Adams. Some time later, he took in his brother, Clement A., as a partner in the business. The concern is now known as the Buser Auto Company. They handle the well known and standard makes of automobiles such as the Oakland, Hudson, Dodge Bros., and the Maxwell. The garage building is a substantial brick structure 44x100 feet in dimensions, and is requires a considerable staff to care for the extensive business carried on by this enterprising firm.

In addition to his automobile business, Mr. Buser is a large land owner, his holdings being located in western Kansas; he is a shareholder and a director of the First National and State Savings Banks in Seneca. In October of 1912, Mr. Buser, J. E. Stillwell, and L. D. Allen, and Peter P. Stein purchased the controlling interest, formerly owned by Jacob E. Cohen in the First National Bank of Seneca. Mr. Buser is proprietor of the local opera house, and owns several business buildings on the Main street of Seneca, besides residence properties in the city. He is one of the substantial and wealthy men of Nemaha county.

Mr. Buser was married, May 28, 1885, by Rev. P. Boniface, O. S. B., at Seneca, Kans. to Katie E. Stein, born May 13, 1870 in Seneca, a daughter of Mathias and Elizabeth Stein. (See biography of Peter P. Stein.)

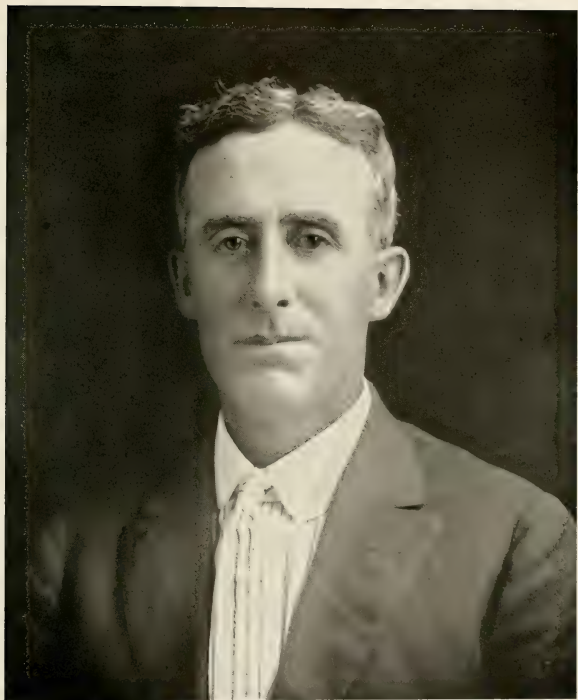
Mr. Buser has taken a more or less active part in Democratic politics, and is one of the "wheel horses" of his party in Nemaha county. He was a candidate for the office of county commissioner in 1913, and made a strong race for the office. He and Mrs. Buser are members of Sts. Peter and Paul's Church, and are liberal contributors and supporters of this denomination. Mr. Buser is a charter member of the Knights

of Columbus and the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association. Probably no citizen of Nemaha county is better known or more highly esteemed for his many excellent qualities, genial disposition and universal kindness than the gentleman, of whom this brief review is written. His career is a living epitome of what a single ambitious citizen can accomplish in his home community if the right effort is put forth. Joseph J. Buser did not look beyond the borders of his home county for opportunity, such as many are wont to do—he found it awaiting him right at home—and took advantage of his opportunity with a keenness of perception and the necessary energy and ability to make good.

**John McManis.**—Civic pride and good management is evident in the conduct of municipal affairs at Goff, Kans., the third largest city of Nemaha county. The citizens of Goff are enterprising, industrious, and are imbued with that pull together spirit which goes a great way in making a substantial municipality. In such a community one can naturally expect to find a wide awake and hustling executive who has the best interests of his city at heart. Goff is fortunate in having as mayor, John McManis, manager of the Goff Grain Company, a business man who finds time to devote his attention to civic affairs in his home city, and is an excellent city official.

John McManis was born at Lamoille, Ill., August 31, 1873, and is a son of Hugh and Elizabeth (Hedge) McManis, who were the parents of four sons and six daughters. Hugh McManis, the father of John, was born at Kempville, Canada, February 20, 1845, and died at his home west of Lamoille, Ill., May 9, 1906. He immigrated to Illinois when a mere lad with his mother, who first located at La Salle, Ill., and later made a home at Lamoille. When the Civil war broke out, he proved his loyalty to the Union by enlisting, August 25, 1861, as a volunteer soldier in Company B, Fifty-second Illinois infantry, and served throughout the war, and was given an honorable discharge when his company was mustered out, July 6, 1865. The command to which Mr. McManis belonged was assigned to duty with the western army, and the famous battles in which it was engaged are recorded in history. Company B took part in the famous "March to the Sea" under General Sherman. He returned home after his war service and settled down to peaceful pursuits. On April 15, 1868, he was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Hedge. Of the ten children born to this union, nine are living, as follows: Mary, Nellie, Frank, Bessie, Lucile and Catherine, Mrs. Thomas Huffman, living on a farm near Erie, Ill.; John, with whom this review is directly concerned; James, an engineer by profession, located at St. Paul, Minn. Mrs. McManis, mother of John, was born at Lamoille, Ill., in 1850, and resides on the old home place in Bureau county, Illinois.

John McManis was reared on the farm and attended the public schools of Lamoille, Ill. On December 1, 1893, he began working for a grain elevator concern at Whiting, Kans. Six years later (1899), he



JOHN McMANIS.  
Mayor of Goff, Kansas.





came to Goff and became manager of the Goff Grain Company, in which concern he is a stockholder. Mr. McManis has prospered in Kansas, and besides his business interests he has property in Goff and owns 160 acres of farm land in Thomas county, Kansas.

He was married in 1903 to Miss Grace Berridge, born at Goff in 1881, and a daughter of Henry and Anna (Hopkins) Berridge, who were early pioneer settlers of Nemaha county, her father following the trade of stone mason at Goff for some years. Three children have been born to John McManis and wife as follows: Geraldine, Helen and Margaret.

Mr. McManis is a Republican in politics and is one of the leaders of his party in Nemaha county. He has twice been elected mayor of Goff, the first time in 1904, and during his term as mayor the cement walks were laid on the city streets. He was again elected to the office in 1915, and is also serving as township treasurer of Harrison township. During his last administration Goff citizens installed an electric lighting system. He is affiliated fraternally with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

**Burnett G. Firstenberger** is one of the youngest bankers of northern Kansas, and is the youngest banker in Seneca at the present time. His success has been marked and he has shown capabilities for banking, and ability for handling financial matters which have placed him in the front rank of banking men in his section of Kansas.

Mr. Firstenberger was born in Seneca, Kans., May 22, 1886, and is a son of George and Jennie (Lount) Firstenberger. George Firstenberger, his father, was born at Galion, Ohio, in 1860, and is a son of Christopher and Barbara (Ziegler) Firstenberger, natives of Germany, who emigrated from their native land to America in 1850, settling in Ohio where Christopher followed his trade of shoe maker. Christopher Firstenberger enlisted in an Ohio infantry regiment during the Civil war, and served his adopted country bravely and well. He and his wife died in Ohio. George Firstenberger began his career as a clerk in a dry goods store in his home town of Galion, and remained there until 1882, when he came to Seneca, and took a position with his brother in the dry goods store. He followed his vocation of salesman until his retirement in 1912, and is now making his home with his daughter and son in Seneca. Four children were born to George and Jennie Firstenberger, as follows: Lount, deceased; Burnett G., subject of this review; Mildred, born April 20, 1888, housekeeper for her father and brother; Doris, deceased. The mother of these children was born at Barrie, Ontario, Canada, in 1861, and was a daughter of Gabriel and Harriet (Burnett) Lount, natives of Canada. Harriet Burnett was a daughter of Aaron and Hannah (Plaxton) Burnett, natives of Kent and Yorkshire, England, who immigrated to Canada. Aaron Burnett came to Seneca, Kans., from Canada in 1870, and engaged in the lumber business at a time when Seneca was but a small village. He died here in 1891 at the

age of seventy-one years. His wife, Hannah, was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1820, and died in 1902. Their daughter, Harriet, wife of Gabriel Lount, is also deceased. Jennie E. (Lount) Firstenberger came to Seneca with her mother in 1870, and died in 1898. She was educated in Bethany College, Topeka, Kans., and was well versed in music.

Burnett G. Firstenberger was educated in the public schools of Seneca and the high school of Sacramento, Cal., where he made his home with his grandmother for one year, after which he returned to his home in Seneca. His first work was as carpenter's helper, but he was soon after employed as bookkeeper in the First National Bank of Seneca. He was ambitious to advance himself and was willing to study; acting upon this resolve, he pursued a special course in abnking and banking law, thus fitting himself for the post of cashier of the State Savings Bank, which position was tendered him in 1911.

Mr. Firstenberger is a Democrat in politics and is at present treasurer of the city board of education. He is a member and clerk of the Congregational church.

**Horace M. Baldwin.**—The legal profession is one of the oldest of the learned arts and offers a vast field for advancement to the ambitious disciple of the law creeds. A knowledge of law nowadays is indispensable to the business or financial man; and a really able, conscientious and capable attorney is certain of recognition and the security of a competence. A leading member of the Nemaha county bar is Horace M. Baldwin, county attorney, Seneca, Kans. Mainly through his own efforts and the development of inherent ability, combined with a profound knowledge of the law has resulted in Mr. Baldwin taking front rank among the attorneys of northern Kansas.

Horace M. Baldwin was born at Monmouth, Ill., October 29, 1859, and is a son of John H. and Anna (McKeowen) Baldwin, who were the parents of five children, as follows: Carrie, at Monmouth, Ill.; Horace M., with whom this review is directly concerned; Mrs. Mary Mixner, Bridgeton, N. J.; Wilbur, deceased; Elbert, deceased. John Baldwin was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, in 1829, and learned the trade of mason in his youth. He was a son of Johnson and Hannah (Speakman) Baldwin, natives of Pennsylvania, who were tillers of the soil. The Speakman family is of old Quaker stock, whose origin in America began with the advent of the William Penn colony at Philadelphia in 1682. John Baldwin migrated from his native heath to Illinois in 1850 and worked at his trade of mason until his retirement to a comfortable home in Monmouth, in 1914. He became an extensive contractor and worked at his vocation until he was past four score and five years of age—a remarkable record. Mrs. Anna (McKeowen) Baldwin, mother of Horace M. Baldwin, was born in Union county, Pennsylvania, and was a daughter of Daniel McKeowen, whose wife was a Bogart, and both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania and early settlers in Illinois.

Horace M. Baldwin attended the public schools of Monmouth, Ill., and in 1876 matriculated at Monmouth College, graduating from this institution in 1880 with the Bachelor's degree, and later receiving the degree of Master of Arts. He taught for one year in the district schools of his native county, and then went to Chicago, where he was employed by the Rissler & Reitz wholesale saddlery company for one year. He then returned home and began the study of law in the office of Stewart & Grier, and was eventually admitted to the bar and came west to Atchison, Kans., where he opened an office with a law partner, the firm name being Bailey & Baldwin. In 1893 he went to Hill City, Kans., and took charge of the legal business of a wealthy land owning client (J. P. Pomeroy). He remained in Mr. Pomeroy's employ until 1898, and then opened a law office at Kansas City, Mo., remaining in that city until 1906, at which time he located in Seneca.

Mr. Baldwin is a Republican in politics and has always been active in political affairs. While practicing at Atchison he served as police judge for a term. He was the nominee of the party in Nemaha county for State representative, but was defeated by only eight votes. In November, 1914, he was elected to the office of county attorney on the Republican ticket, receiving a handsome majority.

Mr. Baldwin was married in 1884 to Miss Harriet Waste, and two children have blessed this union, namely: Burdette, deceased, and Clifford.

Mrs. Baldwin was born at Galesburg, Ill., and is a daughter of Orson and Elizabeth (Miller) Waste, the former of whom was a native of Vermont and the latter a native of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Baldwin studied at Knox College, Galesburg, Ill., and taught school for one year previous to her marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Seneca, and Mr. Baldwin is a steward of this church. He is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and is master of the Seneca lodge of Masons. He is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the National Union and is a member of the alumni association of his alma mater.

**Richard D. McCliman.**—Faithfulness to duty on the part of public officials is always appreciated by the people, and an official who regards his office other than a sinecure, is recognized as honest, capable, and well meaning. In Richard D. McCliman, postmaster of Seneca, Kans., the patrons and citizens of Seneca have a capable and conscientious public servant, whose sole interest is to see that the affairs of this important government office so close to the masses are running smoothly and for the sole convenience of the patrons of the office. Credit is due Mr. McCliman for the efficiency and general courtesy with which the postoffice business is conducted.

Richard D. McCliman was born in Green county, Wisconsin, April 9, 1852, and is a son of John and Talitha (Dixon) McCliman who were

the parents of six children, as follows: Richard D., subject of this review and the eldest of the family; Lenda, died in infancy; John E., living in Wisconsin; Mrs. Elmeda Brandon, Albia, Iowa; Mrs. Margaret Brandon, a widow living in Monroe county, Iowa; William, died at the age of one year. John McCliman was born in Pennsylvania in 1822, migrated to Wisconsin, cleared a farm in Green county and lived there until his removal to Iowa where he died in 1911. John McCliman was a son of John and Margaret (McMillan) McCliman, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter a native of Scotland. The mother of Richard D. McCliman was born in 1824 in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, and was a daughter of Johnathan and Mary (Boyer) Dixon, and she died in 1914.

Richard D. McCliman learned the carpenter's trade in his youth in Franklin, Pa., where the family resided for twenty years. He worked at his trade in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Iowa and migrated to Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1878. He bought eighty acres of land in Capioma township, farmed it for a short time and then sold it previous to his removal to Seneca in 1898.

While residing on his farm he had become interested in Democratic politics and became well known over Nemaha county, to such an extent that he was elected to the office of county treasurer in 1897 and held this important position for five years. Previous to serving as county treasurer, Mr. McCliman served two terms as a member of the State legislature, sessions of 1891 and 1893. At the expiration of his term of office he engaged in the real estate business with fair success. In January, 1915 he was appointed postmaster of Seneca,—an appointment which met with general satisfaction on account of the long and faithful record of the recipient as a party worker and as an upright and competent citizen.

Mr. McCliman was married in December, 1874, to Miss Jennie Battin, of Franklin, Pa. This marriage was consummated in Grant county, Wisconsin. No children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. McCliman.

Mr. McCliman is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Knights of Pythias and the Knights and Ladies of Security.

**Melville R. Connet.**—Nearly two decades have passed since Melville R. Connet left his native State of Indiana to find fortune and prestige in Kansas. It is evident that he has been successful and has risen during that time to a position of prominence and affluence in Nemaha county. He has become a thorough Kansan and imbued with Western ideals since deciding that Kansas was the land of opportunity for him and his. His reputation as a financial man and banker is second to none in the county and northern Kasas.

Melville R. Connet, cashier of the National Bank of Seneca, Kans., was born in Monroe county, Indiana, September 5, 1859, and is a son of Nelson and Mary (Rose) Connet, natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio.



MELVILLE R. CONNET.



respectively. John Nelson Connet, born June 23, 1830, in Green county, Pennsylvania, was the son of Isaac Connet, a native of Pennsylvania, and who was descended from colonial ancestry. The Connet family is an old pure American family, who can trace their ancestry back to early settlement and Colonial days of American history. Mrs. Mary Emily (Rose) Connet was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, and her parents were among the early pioneers of that section of Ohio. Isaac Connet moved his family from Pennsylvania to Guernsey county, Ohio, in 1852, when John Nelson Connet, father of the subject, was twenty-two years old. John Nelson Connet married there, and in 1857, migrated from Ohio to Stanford, Monroe county, Indiana, where he followed farming until his migration to Kansas in 1886. He settled at Baileyville, Kans., and operated a store in partnership with his son. He died at Baileyville, September 19, 1889. John Nelson and Mary (Rose) Connet were the parents of five children, as follows: W. Homer, Axtell, Kans.; Martha Ann, wife of Dr. Gaston, both deceased; Melville R., with whom this review is directly concerned; Fred M., Iola, Kans.; Frank B., Kansas City, Kans. By a second marriage of Nelson Connet with Mrs. Mary Richey, there were two children, as follows: Ralph A., Kansas City, Mo., and Carrie, a teacher in the Kansas City, Mo., public schools.

The grandfather of Melville R. Connet was Isaac Connet, born near Prosperity, Pa., March 12, 1805, and was a cooper, farmer, sawyer and miller. He located in Guernsey county, Ohio, in 1852. He died near Urbana, Champaign county, Illinois, in 1865. Isaac Connet was a son of James Connet, a native of Pennsylvania, and became a weaver by trade. He was a son of James Connet, born in 1730, and who was a resident of Essex county, New Jersey.

Melville R. Connet was educated in the public schools of Monroe county, Indiana, and followed farming until 1882. He came alone to Kansas in 1877, and located in Nemaha county, where he farmed for five years. He then engaged in the general merchandise business at Baileyville, Kans., for one year, after which he located in Seneca, where he operated a furniture business for twelve years. He disposed of this business, and for five years was engaged as traveling salesman, from 1895 to 1900. He took up life insurance in 1900, and sold insurance successfully for two years. In October, 1902, Mr. Connet's banking career began with the organization of the Bank of Kelly, in which he took a prominent and active part, and became cashier of the bank. He resigned his position as cashier in 1906 and again engaged in life insurance work until October, 1912. He then entered the National Bank of Seneca as cashier. In addition to his duties as cashier he conducts a fire insurance and loan business, which is profitable.

M. R. Connet was married to Rachel K. Thompson, November 2, 1882, and three children were born to this union, namely: Lelia, aged thirteen years, and Willie, aged nine years, lost their lives in the cyclone of 1896, and Clyde died at the age of four years. Mrs. Connet was born

in Douglas county, Kansas, a daughter of William K. and Fannie Thompson, deceased.

The cyclone which visited Seneca May 17, 1896, caused considerable devastation and loss of life. Mr. and Mrs. Connet and children had gone to a neighbor's house and stood in the front yard of the neighbor's home, watching the black clouds, which were sweeping across the sky. Things looked dangerous and it looked as though the city would be struck by one of the whirling masses. Mr. Connet saw the danger, and told the women and children to go into the neighbor's cellar and remain until the storm was over. Others gave conflicting advice. Five minutes later the entire party was forced to flee for their safety, while all might have been safe and sound in the cellar. The terrific wind lifted the house from the joists, the structure slid over, as it was forced by the terrific power of the wind, and the little children were crushed to death. Mr. Connet and a neighbor and his son, going into the house later, were carried a distance of 100 feet with the house, which was crushed to pieces, but they were miraculously saved. He and his two companions in peril were pinned fast by the timbers, but were soon extricated by the people who came to their rescue.

Mr. and Mrs. Connet are members of the Congregational church. Mr. Connet is a Republican in politics and has always taken an active and influential part in political and civic affairs. He served as city councilman when the waterworks plant and system was installed, and was elected mayor of Seneca in 1896, filling this post acceptably and ably for two years. He is prominent in secret society circles, being a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the chapter and commandery, and having been treasurer of all three Masonic bodies for the past three years. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen and the Knights of Pythias, of which latter fraternal society he has served as a member of the Grand Lodge of Kansas. Mr. Connet is always found in the forefront of all movements for the advancement of his home city and county, and is one of Seneca's most influential and representative men, who is courteous, diplomatic and level headed in all of his undertakings.

**Henry Galen Snyder, M. D.**—One of the prominent and successful citizens of Seneca, Kans., is Dr. Henry Galen Snyder, well known in professional circles in this part of the State. Dr. Snyder enjoys a high reputation for medical and surgical skill and counts the best citizens of Seneca in his clientele.

Dr. Snyder was born in the town where he lives March 7, 1880, and has spent his whole life within the confines of the city of his birth, except for the time which he devoted to the study of his profession. His parents were Alvin and Melisa J. (Burger) Snyder. Dr. Snyder comes of old Holland stock, which still forms one of the best lines in our American population, and his ancestors came to America in the days before the Revolution. It was these Hollanders who helped to win the colonies from a tyrannical king, who sought to oppress them, and it can



be said to the credit of Dr. Snyder's ancestry that they were among the first to rise up and protest against injustice.

Dr. Snyder's father, Alvin, was born in 1847 near Greensburg, Pa. His parents, Henry T. and Christena (Armel) Snyder, were natives of Pennsylvania, where the father plied his trade as a steelsmith. About four years after the birth of Alvin, the family moved to Indiana, locating near Brazil, where Alvin spent his boyhood. After passing through the typical small boy days, which James Whitcomb Riley knew so well and pictured so vividly in the Hoosier tongue, Alvin Snyder began to incline toward medicine as the profession which he most wanted to pursue. Accordingly, at the age of twenty-four he set out for St. Louis to study the science of medicine, and after a difficult course of three years in medical school, the young doctor was ready to practice. In 1874, soon after his graduation, he came to Seneca, Kans., where he opened his office and received his first patients. Until the time of his death, August 29, 1914, he continued his labors among the residents of Seneca, serving them in every way within his power. Some day a poet will sing the glories of the doctor of the small town, for here is a character who is invariably self-sacrificing, bent on serving his fellowmen rather than accumulating riches, who knows how to treat every disease which country folks have. Such a man was Dr. Alvin Snyder.

The mother of Dr. Galen Snyder is a native of Iowa, and was born October 3, 1856, a daughter of Marcus M. and Emily (Scoville) Burger, natives of New York State. While still young, she was brought by her parents to Seneca, where she received a high school education. Four children were born to Dr. and Mrs. Snyder: Mrs. Harry M. Leslie, Auburn, Wash.; Galen, of whom this review is written; Mrs. Charles Everhart, Seneca, and Mrs. A. L. Morris, Benkelman, Neb.

After reading the foregoing, it is not surprising to learn that the son followed his father's profession. Dr. Snyder's youth was spent in a happy and carefree manner, but he received a sound elementary education at the same time. His father knew the value of learning and skill and spared no effort to give his son the advantages of the best training that was to be had. In 1898, having finished preparatory work, he went to Rush Medical College at Chicago, the foremost medical school in America, and one requiring the highest qualifications for entrance and for graduation. Taking his diploma in 1903, Dr. Snyder returned to his home town to begin the practice of medicine under the guidance of his father. This, in connection with his excellent technical training, accounts to a great extent for his success in the practice of his profession. For his father, in the long years of varied experience, had acquired a stock of knowledge which no profession could gain from the study of books, and it was this invaluable store of experiences which the father passed over to his son during the eleven years of their association together in a professional capacity. This happy companionship was broken by the death of the father in 1914. The son has carried on the family tradition

and has added immeasurably to his professional standing as the years have gone by.

Dr. Snyder has found the duties of his profession too arduous to admit of much outside activity, and beyond voting in accord with his well-defined Republican views, he has taken little part in politics. He has never held public office. Dr. Snyder subscribes to the creed of the Congregational Church. He is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masonic lodge. Dr. Snyder is unmarried.

**John Theo. Buening.**—The life story of the man whose name heads this review is the story of a self made man, who left his native land in his youth and made his way in a strange land. In turn, he has been a miner, merchant and farmer, and is at present the owner of a large farm in Nemaha county, Kansas, and owns a half interest in the department store formerly operated by Wempe & Huerter. John Theo. Buening is one of the substantial and well respected citizens of Seneca, who came to Kansas thirty-six years ago, and has won his way to a position of affluence in this land of opportunity.

John Theo. Buening was born February 5, 1853, in the village of Havixbeck, Westphalia, Germany, a son of Bernard and Elizabeth (Fatoum) Buening, natives of Germany. The parents of the subject lived in their native country until in June, 1883, when they came to America and joined their son at Glen Elder, Kans. He cared for his parents until the death of each. Bernard Buening was born in 1809, and died in January, 1897. The mother of the subject was born in 1816, and died in 1899. They were good Catholics. Bernard and Elizabeth Buening were the parents of the following children: Mrs. Minnie Rothers, Jackson county, Kansas; Mrs. Gertrude Fortman, a widow, residing at Beloit, Kans.; John Theo., the subject of this review; Bernard, living at Soldier, Kans.

Mr. Buening attended the schools of his native village in Germany, and when still young began working in the coal mines at Westphalia. He was thus employed until his emigration from Germany to America in 1875. He located in Clayfield county, Pennsylvania, and worked in the coal mines there for a time, and was also employed as a miner in various localities of the East and South until 1878. It had always been his ambition to better his condition, and he realized that the vocation of a coal miner was not conducive to any great accumulation of substance. In 1878, he went to Crown Point, Ind., and was employed as clerk in a dry goods store for six months. This was the starting point of his business career, and we next find that he had come farther west to Kansas and entered the general store of A. A. Thompson, at Glen Elder, Kans., as a clerk. In 1880, he opened a restaurant at Glen Elder and operated the same for four years. He bought a half interest in a general store in the meantime, which he sold in 1883, and erected a store building and engaged in business on his own account. Three years later he traded his store for a farm of 280 acres in section 16, Reilly township, Nemaha



JOHN T. BUENING AND FAMILY.



county, and engaged in farming. His farm was poorly improved, and he at once built a nice home and barn and set out trees in order to make the place attractive. Mr. Buening has added to his land holdings until he now owns 365 acres. In 1893 he started a general store at Corning, Kans., but disposed of this in 1896, and gave all of his time and attention to his large farming interests until 1915, when he retired to a comfortable home in Seneca. In 1910, Mr. Buening made a three months' visit to his native country and enjoyed going over all the old home scenes of his youth. On April 15, 1916, he purchased an interest in the Wempe & Huerter Department Store.

Mr. Buening was married on August 27, 1878, to Elizabeth M. Barman, and this union has been blessed with the following children: Katharine, deceased; Mamie, wife of J. M. Wempe, Seneca, Kans.; Eleanor A., at home; John, a farmer in Reilly township, this county.

Mrs. Buening was born October 12, 1853, at Crown Point, Ind., a daughter of John and Kathrine Barman, natives of Germany, and both of whom are deceased.

Mr. Buening is a Democrat and has served as a member of the school board in his township. He and all his family are religiously affiliated with the Catholic church, and contribute of their means to the support of this denomination. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus.

**John L. Clark.**—As a druggist and business man who has made good by his own efforts and ability, John L. Clark, druggist of Seneca, Kans., is a fine example, having built up an unusually large business and accumulated considerable property.

In 1869, on February 4, John L. Clark was born. He is a son of John and Ann (Cain) Clark, of Pawnee county, Nebraska. John was one of six children whose names are: Thomas, farmer, Pawnee county, Nebraska; James H., a retired farmer of Summerfield, Kans.; Mrs. Mary A. Nester, whose husband is a farmer in Pawnee county, Nebraska; John L., of whom this sketch treats; Edward J., druggist, Kansas City, Mo., and Martha F., Summerfield, Kans.

John L. Clark comes of hardy Irish stock, his father being a native of the Emerald Isle, born there in 1833, a son of Brien Clark, who married a Miss Fox. The father grew up under the pressure of hardships and at the age of seventeen, (1850), he sailed for America in the hope of being more successful and settled in New York where he followed his trade of brick molder. However, Mr. Clark was searching for a better means of earning a livelihood and four years later went west, first trying his fortunes in Chicago. After four years of it he came to Kansas, locating at Leavenworth, where he stayed four years more working at different occupations all the while. In 1861 he went to Pawnee county, Nebraska, where he homesteaded land. Now he had found what he was looking for and for thirty-six years, more than a generation, he farmed this soil; in fact, he stayed on this farm until he retired in

1897. At time of his retirement he owned 800 acres of land in Nebraska and Marshall county, Kansas, a fact which in itself, speaks volumes for the industry and thrift of Mr. Clark. On June 20, 1912, the father of our subject died. His wife had died in 1895 while he was still living on the Nebraska farm. She, too, was born in Ireland and was fifty-four years old at the time of her death. Both Mr. and Mrs. Clark were devout members of the Roman Catholic church.

John L. Clark grew up on the farm working for his father during his youth but attending school as much as possible. He finished the district school and in 1901 went to the University of Kansas at Lawrence to take a course in pharmacy. After completing the two-year course in schedule time, he went to Marysville, Kans., where he opened a drug store. He sold out in 1904 and came to Seneca where he bought the stock of Dr. Alvin Snyder which place of business he now owns though he has enlarged it considerably. In addition to drugs, he carries stationery, wall paper, paints, sundries, and in all has about \$5,000 worth of stock. This indicates the success he has attained and the fact that he owns one-half section of land in Nebraska and Kansas and owns property in Seneca in addition to his residence adds to the record of his success.

In 1908 he was married to Mary E. Mohan and to this union two children have been born: Kathleen Rose, and John L.

Mrs. Clark is a native of Kansas having been born in Leavenworth March 2, 1876. She is a daughter of Peter and Mary (Hines) Mohan, both natives of Kansas.

Mr. Clark is a member of the Roman Catholic church, and belongs to the Knights of Columbus. In politics Mr. Clark is a Democrat, though he confines his participation in that field mostly to voting on election day, as he finds his business affairs too pressing to devote any time to office seeking. Perhaps it is because he has stayed with his drug business and because he has put his best thought into it that he has built up such a large business. He takes any amount of pains to aid his customers and they are sure of courteous treatment and careful attention when dealing with him. It is this personal element which has, perhaps, been most powerful in building up the drug store which Mr. Clark owns.

**Mrs. Emma Young.**—Any individual, in order to be successful in his profession or avocation, must, of necessity, be in love with the work undertaken—otherwise it will lapse into the mediocre or be a failure. It requires, for instance, that one be a lover of flowers to be successful in floriculture. Mrs. Emma Young, proprietor and manager of Young's green houses, Seneca, Kans., is a natural lover of flowers and was taught the rudiments of her profession by a husband, who was likewise gifted with an understanding of growing things and making beauty spots on his domain. The Young establishment had its inception in the eighties, when the first husband of Mrs. Young was compelled by failing health to abandon his trade and then indulged in his hobby of growing plants

and flowers. Before long the venture was successful as a commercial enterprise, and it has grown to considerable proportions under the skilled management of the proprietress. The green houses are beauty spots in Seneca, and are well patronized by the people of Nemaha county.

Speaking in a biographical sense, Mrs. Emma Latter (Brown) Young was born in Kent, England, October 29, 1852, and is a daughter of James and Louise (Brigden) Latter. James Latter learned the plasterer's trade when a youth and emigrated from his native land to Australia in 1886, where he died in 1905. James and Louise Latter were the parents of seven children, as follows: Mrs. Isabella Huggett, living in Australia; George, died in England; Mrs. Emma Young, with whom this review is concerned; Albert died in England; Mrs. Louise Reckley, Australia; Mrs. Alice Gill, living in Australia; one child died in infancy.

The subject of this review was educated in the private schools of her native land, and was there married, January 29, 1873, to Henry Robert Brown, a plasterer by trade. Mr. and Mrs. Brown immigrated to America in March, 1873, soon after their marriage, and located in Chicago, Ill., where they resided until 1882, at which time they removed to Seneca, Kans. Mr. Brown worked at his trade here until his health failed him. He and Mrs. Brown set about the establishing of a green house, so as to have an income sufficient to afford them a livelihood. The local photographers very kindly gave them used negatives, which served as the glass for filling the sashes used in the building, and their first hot house was a small affair, 12x24 feet in extent. As time went on the business justified the enlargement of the buildings, and it was made larger and moved to the present location on West Main street. Mr. Brown died in 1905. The business has continued to grow and constant enlargement has been the rule until Mrs. Young now has three green houses, 18x75 feet, 14x60 feet and 10x30 feet in sizes. She ships the product of her green houses to nearby towns and conducts her business in a capable and business-like manner. Mr. Brown died in 1905, and the widow was again married in 1908 to O. G. Young, a native of Iowa, who came to Seneca in 1873.

Mrs. Young is a member of the Episcopalian church, and is a hard working, industrious woman, who takes a keen interest in her business and the welfare of the community in general.

**Henry Eichenlaub.**—One of the landmarks of Seneca, which is an old established and successful business, is the Eichenlaub mill and grain and feed depot, placed in operation by Henry Eichenlaub over thirty years ago in Seneca. It is one of the most successful business concerns of the city and is noted for the service and courteous attention given its many patrons throughout the neighboring country contiguous to Seneca.

Henry Eichenlaub, proprietor of the Eichenlaub mill, Seneca, Kans.,

was born in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, October 14, 1852, and is a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Neidlinger) Eichenlaub, who were the parents of seven children. Henry Eichenlaub, the father, was born in Schaumberg, Germany, in 1831, and when seven years old accompanied his parents to America. The Eichenlaub family settled in Pennsylvania and Henry, Sr., was there reared to manhood and learned the trade of stone mason, which he followed during his entire life, and died in 1913. Mrs. Elizabeth Eichenlaub was born in Pennsylvania in 1832, and is still living at the old home of the family in Pennsylvania.

He of whom this review is written was reared in Pennsylvania, and when he attained his majority, took the advice given to the young men of his day by the famous Horace Greeley and "came West" in search of fortune. In 1873, he left his old home and made his way to Decorah, Iowa, and was employed in a flouring mill for three years. In 1876, he went to Cedar Falls, Iowa, and worked in a flouring mill for four years in that city. For two years following he was employed in a mill at Mill Brook, Ill., and had full charge of the mill until his removal to Seneca in 1881.

During the first year of his residence in Seneca he was engaged in the boot and shoe business. He then sold out his business and located on a farm one mile north of Seneca. On year's residence on the farm convinced him, however, that he did not care to become a farmer, and he again located in Seneca and established a feed mill. He started his business in an old planing mill, but the patronage which he secured during the ensuing years compelled the erection of a larger building, known as the Eichenlaub Mill, ten years later. Mr. Eichenlaub's milling, grain and coal business has had a remarkable growth during the years in which it has been in operation and the mill has been a prosperous investment. Mr. Eichenlaub is a stockholder and director of the Citizens State Bank of Seneca, and he owns considerable property in the city.

Mr. Eichenlaub was married on April 18, 1878, to Miss Sadie Humbert. No children have been born to this union, but in 1890, Mr. and Mrs. Eichenlaub adopted a daughter, Jessie May Warden, who was born November 17, 1888, in Seneca, and is a graduate of the Seneca High School. She was married on October 20, 1910, to James E. McFarland, a native of Missouri, and a druggist of Topeka, Kans. Mr. and Mrs. McFarland have one child, namely, Betty Lou. Mrs. Sadie Eichenlaub was born at Lyons, Wayne county, New York, July 24, 1851, and is a daughter of George Humbert, who was born at Strassburg, capital of the French provinces of Alsace-Lorraine, German Empire, September 24, 1803. When a youth, Mr. Humbert went to Paris and learned the tailor's trade, which he followed for a number of years. Later in life he immigrated to Lyons, N. Y., and conducted a grocery business. During the early sixties he located in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and engaged in farming. He remained on his farm until his demise in 1893. His



wife, whose maiden name was Eva Bly, was born August 8, 1803, at Strassburg, France, and he died in 1873. Mr. Humbert and his future bride met aboard ship during the voyage across the Atlantic, fell in love with each other and were married, the marriage resulting in the birth of twelve children. They were a very religious couple and at family gatherings at their home, religious worship would be carried on. They organized the Evangelical Church at Cedar Falls, Iowa, and assisted in building a fine church edifice, which still stands in the city. Mrs. Eichenlaub is the youngest child born to this estimable couple. A sister, Mrs. Lena Rodenbach, lives at Minneapolis, Minn. A brother, Solomon, born in New York in 1843, is State oil inspector in Iowa. On May 16, 1916, he celebrated his golden wedding anniversary. Mrs. Eichenlaub is a member of the Methodist Church of Seneca.

Henry Eichenlaub is a staunch Republican in his political belief and served for three years as president of the Seneca school board. He is a member and trustee of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is one of the influential laymen of that denomination. He is affiliated with the Knights and Ladies of Security, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Modern Woodmen of America. He is an enterprising and influential citizen and he and Mrs. Eichenlaub are valued members of society in Seneca.

**Van Buren Fisher** is one of the old-timers of Nemaha county, and is also one of the few surviving veterans of the Civil war. He has the distinction of having fought to save his country from dissolution and to have fought the great fight necessary to redeem a wilderness and make it habitable for mankind for centuries and ages to come. He is a Kansas pioneer who has had as many ups and downs as the veriest frontiersman and knows what real hardships have been, for the simple reason that Mr. Fisher has had more than his share of vicissitudes. He is a fine, sturdy specimen of the last remnants of the famous old guard who saved the Union, and who are now living a comfortable protected existence and honored and respected of all men by a grateful people..

Mr. Fisher was born on a farm in LaGrange county, Indiana, February 19, 1842, and is a son of Thomas and Jane (Conley) Fisher. The Fisher family is an old American family, and Thomas Fisher, father of the subject of this review, was born in Maryland in 1811, moved to Ohio, and later became a farmer and was a pioneer of LaGrange county, Indiana. He made his home among the Dunkards, and, being a well read and versatile man (education being a very rare accomplishment among the early day Hoosiers), he did much of the clerical work of the Dunkards, who would come to him to have their deeds and abstracts of title properly made out. Thomas Fisher became somewhat of a dignitary among his neighbors and was looked upon as a learned personage of note. He held many public offices, such as justice of the peace, school trustee and others. He came to Butler county, Kansas, in 1880, bought a farm, improved it and finally died on a farm near Fort Scott, in 1895.

Thomas Fisher was twice married and had six children by his first wife, five of whom were boys, and all were reared. A girl died when quite young. His second wife was Nancy Swartz, who bore him eight children. The mother of Van Buren Fisher was born in Maryland and died in 1847.

Van Buren Fisher was reared on the Indiana farm and had very few luxuries in his youth. Schools were a scarce institution, and his early education was obtained at a subscription school, the teacher of which "boarded round" among the pupils' families as a part of the recompense. The school which Mr. Fisher attended was located in LaGrange, Ind. He followed the peaceful life of the farmer boy until the outbreak of the rebellion, and he then enlisted for service in Company H, Forty-fourth Indiana infantry, and served until his discharge in 1863. He took part in the engagement resulting in the capture of Fort Donelson, and fought at the great battle of Shiloh and also at Corinth. His command was with General Buell on his famous march through Kentucky and Tennessee, and on the return trip Mr. Fisher was wounded in a fight at Murfreesboro or "Stone River." During this engagement a bullet hole was shot through his hat, a missile lodged in his left leg and he was laid up for repairs sixteen days in the field hospital. He was taken thence to Nashville, Tenn., and remained there for nine and one-half months, and was then honorably discharged at New Albany, Ind., in 1863, after a stay in Louisville, Ky. He returned home after his discharge and bought army horses for the Federal Government until the close of the war.

When the war was over, Mr. Fisher married and began his farming career in Noble county, Indiana, where he remained until 1869. He migrated to Kansas during this year, driving a covered wagon or "prairie schooner," through from Indiana to Seneca, Kans., and accompanied by his wife and little daughter. He rented a house in Seneca and then drove to Brownsville, Neb., for the purpose of buying household furniture and stocking up with provisions. On the return trip, he attempted to ford the Nemaha river at Baker's ford, nine miles north of Seneca, and lost his wagon and team on account of the depth of the water and the swiftness of the current and very nearly lost his own life by drowning, only a willow saved his life. He was enabled to grasp the willow and pull himself to safety as the remorseless stream was carrying him down to his death and a watery grave. Mr. Fisher was thankful to escape with his life, but the loss of his furniture and six months' supplies was a hard blow to the family. He obtained a job on a farm, six miles north of Seneca, which required that he walk the entire distance from his home before breakfast each morning and back again at night so that he could be near his family. His wages were \$1 per day, but this wage seemed like riches to him at that time. In the spring of 1870, he began working on the construction of the St. Joseph and Grand Island railroad. During the winter he did hauling when the frozen ground

did not permit construction work, and in this manner kept his family supplied with the necessities of life. He hauled provisions from Marysville to Seneca, Kans. In the spring of 1871, he was far enough ahead of the game to begin renting land on his own account, and he farmed near Seneca until 1873, when he was enabled to buy eighty acres of land in Washington township, Nemaha county. He broke up the virgin prairie and placed modest improvements on the place. The grasshoppers came along, however, about this time and cleaned out his crops, excepting a little wheat.

He sold out this farm in 1875, and rented land in the same neighborhood for three years, after which he moved to Seneca and operated a dray line for about three years. He again returned to the farm and rented a half section of land in Granada township for six years, and then bought eighty-six acres of land south of Seneca. He sold this tract in 1895 and was elected registrar of deeds of the county on the Republican ticket and held the office for two terms. After the expiration of his official service, Mr. Fisher bought his present farm of four acres adjoining Seneca, in 1897.

Mr. Fisher was married September 20, 1865, in LaGrange county, Indiana, to Emeline Bowman, born at Mansfield, Ohio, February 19, 1842. This union has resulted in the birth of the following children: Jennie M., Kansas City, Mo.; Charles M., deceased; Glenn, employed in the water service department of the Missouri Pacific railway at Goff, Kans. Mrs. Fisher is a daughter of Daniel and Kathrine (Krepps) Bowman, natives of Ohio, who removed to Indiana in the pioneer days of that State.

Mr. Fisher and his estimable helpmeet are members of the Methodist church, and for the past ten years Mr. Fisher has been a member of the Seneca School Board. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

**Karl W. Klose.**—It is due to the inventive genius of Karl W. Klose that the Seneca Brick and Tile Manufacturing Company is a successful and going concern. Mr. Klose has made brick making a life study, and his entire time has been given to a working out of the most economical methods of manufacturing brick. His continuous kiln system of brick firing, placed in operation in the Seneca plant, has attracted attention in all parts of the world, and is the last word in economy of operation, which has practically saved the plant and enabled its owners to keep it in operation.

Karl W. Klose, manager and superintendent of the Seneca Shale Brick and Tile Company's plant, was born at Zeiselwitz, Germany, August 17, 1874, and is a son of John and Francesca (Werner) Klose, who were the parents of eight children, as follows: John, a brick manufacturer of Lincoln, Neb.; Robert, a brick manufacturer now living in Germany, and founded the immense brick works at Hastings, Neb.; Alois, owner of the Columbia Brick Works at Portland, Ore.; Karl W., with

whom this review is concerned; four sisters are married and live in Germany.

Karl W. Klose remained on his father's farm until ten years of age, and then studied engineering at Breslau, Germany, until 1897, at which time he went to South America and was employed as a local engineer until 1903. He came to the United States in that year and settled at Lincoln, Neb., and worked at brick manufacturing in his brother's plant. He managed his brother John's plant until 1911, and he then came to Seneca and took charge of the Seneca Brick and Tile Company's yards. He is a stockholder of the company and has made a pronounced success of the undertaking.

Mr. Klose was married at Lincoln, Neb., in 1903, to Elfrieda Tyachsen, who has borne him four children, as follows: Hilda, Theo, Walter and Ruth. The mother of these children was born January 17, 1883, at Lincoln, Neb., and is a daughter of Theodore and Hermine (Placidas) Tyachsen, natives of Germany. Theodore Tyachsen was engaged in the wholesale grocery business at Lincoln.

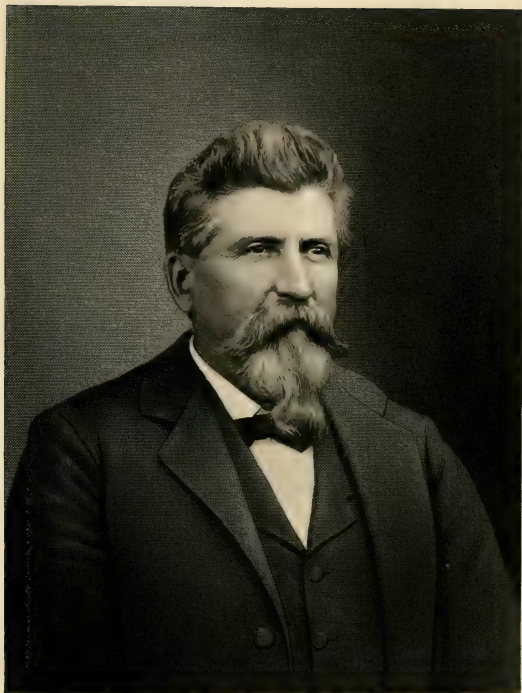
**George Karns.**—The life story of a self made man is always interesting from many standpoints to the reader of history, especially if he has been a Kansas pioneer such as the late George Karns, of Ontario, Kans. The recital of the struggle of the early Kansas pioneers is an inspiring story, and one which should be read by the rising generation with interest and with reverence for the memories of the noble men and women who came from Eastern homes and redeemed a wilderness after years of struggle and hardships. The late George Karns was one of those who left his imprint upon the annals of Nemaha and Jackson counties and made a name and fame for himself far beyond that of ordinary men. He was industrious and saving and accumulated considerable property during his life time. He was a far-seeing business man, who assisted in organizing banks and held positions of trust with financial concerns in which he became interested. He was interested in every worthy enterprise which had for its object the advancement of the best interests of his home community. He was an ardent admirer of good live stock and was considered to have been one of the best judges of cattle and hogs within the county. He was an extensive feeder and breeder of live stock, and was very successful as a stockman. Mr. Karns carried forward his large business enterprises and added to his capital continually until his estate was one of the largest in the county, the work of carrying it forward being accomplished by his faithful wife after Mr. Karns' death. Added to the honors which this fine old pioneer accumulated during his life time of endeavor was the very great honor of having been a Union veteran.

Speaking biographically, George Karns was born at Cardington, Ohio, June 16, 1843, and departed this life at Ontario, Kans., May 30, 1908. His mother died when he was seven years old and his father died a year later. He was thrown upon his own resources and forced to earn his own living from the time he was thirteen years old. When the





*Caroline Kerns*



*Geo Karro*





call came for troops with which to quell the rebellion of the Southern States, he was among the first to enlist in behalf of the Union. Mr. Karns enlisted in the Union army, June 16, 1861, in Company I, Third Ohio infantry, and served until his honorable discharge, June 21, 1864. He re-enlisted in September, 1864, in Merrill's Horse Brigade at St. Louis, and served until the close of the war. He came to Kansas as early as 1866, and located at America City. Eighteen months later, he located at Ontario, Kans., where he resided until his death. Much of Mr. Karns' farm land was located in Nemaha county, just over the Jackson-Nemaha county line, and the old homestead, the Rosary Stock Farm, now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Hamm, is located there. Mr. Karns became very wealthy as a farmer and stockman, and at the time of his death he owned 2,000 acres of land. His advice and counsel were not only sought in private affairs, but his co-operation was solicited in the promotion of all public measures, and he became a leader of his community. He owned a controlling interest in the Farmers State Bank of Circleville, Kans., and served as president of this bank for four years prior to his death. His usefulness as a citizen was generally recognized and appeals to his sympathy were never made in vain.

Mr. Karns was married January 23, 1868, to Miss Caroline Kehrwecker, who bore him eleven children, as follows: Mary Frances, wife of Charles Hubbard, Kinsley, Kans., who died May 13, 1909, leaving two daughters and a son; John W., a successful farmer and stock raiser of Ontario; Anna B., wife of M. G. Hamm, residing in the old home of the Karns family; Albert C., Council Grove, Kans., farmer and stock raiser; Maud M., now Mrs. William Fowler, of Ontario, Kans., whose husband is a successful farmer; Sarah C., wife of William M. Myers, of Kansas City, Mo.; William E., Ontario, Kans., a farmer and stockman residing on a farm adjoining the old home place (see sketch); Elizabeth E., died at the age of two years; Carrie, wife of Fred Pfrang, Bancroft, Kans.; a child died in infancy; James George, owner of the old home place, and resides with his sister, Anna, with the intention of becoming a farmer and stockman and follow in the footsteps of his father.

Mrs. Caroline (Kehrwecker) Karns was born near Cardington, Ohio, May 12, 1849, and at the age of nineteen years she became the wife of George Karns. Immediately after their marriage in Cardington, Ohio, the young couple started for their Kansas home at Ontario. She departed this life on February 1, 1916, sincerely mourned by all who knew her as a good and noble woman. Her life was that of a home maker. She loved the plants and flowers, vegetables, fruits and vines, and developed great skill in their culture. Few plants or flowers that would grow in this climate could be found that she did not understand and had grown in her home and garden. She grew flowers only to bestow them upon her friends and gladden the hearts of the sick or sorrowing. Her home was her fort and throne, from which she ordered well the forces at her command and ruled with love its inmates.

Mr. Karns was a member of Soldier Lodge, No. 240, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. This well and favorably known pioneer couple filled well their place in their day and generation, and left behind them a large family and many friends who revere their memory.

**M. Grant Hamm.**—"The Rosary Stock Farm."—The Rosary Stock Farm, Ontario, Kans., now being operated by M. G. Hamm, and which was owned by the late George Karns, was first occupied by Jerome Wilson and his wife, Leah. They sold it to William Morris in the early eighties, and Morris sold the tract to F. C. Whipple in 1887. Mr. Whipple lived on the farm for five years and made some substantial improvements in the farm buildings and remodeled the house. In the fall of 1893, George Karns purchased it and moved his family from the old home place across the creek and made the place his home until his death in 1908. His widow and a son continued to occupy it until the death of Mrs. Karns in 1916. Five years before the death of Mrs. Karns she gave the farm to her oldest daughter, Anna B., and retained the use of the place for her home during her life time. It is now occupied by Anna B. and her husband, M. G. Hamm.

M. Grant Hamm, the present head of the Rosary Stock Farm, is a Kansas native son, born on a farm in Jackson county, west of Holton, February 15, 1864. His parents were the Rev. R. P. and Susan A. (Million) Hamm, natives of Fleming county, Kentucky, the former having been born November 27, 1831, and the latter, April 21, 1835. They were married August 31, 1854, and made their home at Chaney's Grove, Ill., until the spring of 1857. They then removed to Jackson county, Kansas, and settled on the farm they still own, which is located five miles west of Holton, Kans. Here they reared a family of six children, four daughters and two sons, all of whom are still living within the boundaries of their home county, and most of whom are successful farmers and farmers' wives. The only break in the family circle was caused by the death of the oldest daughter, who was accidentally burned so severely that she died when a child of three years. Rev. Hamm was one of the pioneer Methodist local preachers in Kansas, and was very successful in organizing classes, in burying the dead and uniting in marriage more people than any other minister or official within Jackson county. The time was when he knew every family within that county, and very many of Nemaha county families. He and his wife are still living and enjoying their rest in the eventide of their lives in a comfortable home in Holton, after having spent fifty-nine consecutive years in the same community. Rev. Hamm was rejected as a volunteer in the Union army during the Civil war on account of ill health, but served in the State militia and assisted in the repelling of General Price's invasion under General Curtis during the fall of 1864. Rev. Hamm has assisted in building nearly all of the churches and school enterprises of Jackson county, and has had an active and influential part in shaping the community life. He now rejoices in seeing the fruits of his toil and

looks for progress to continue. His oldest son, born in the heat of the Civil war, was named for that great general whose skill saved the Union, Gen. U. S. Grant, but he chose a different calling from that of his father.

M. Grant Hamm spent his boyhood on the old home farm and attended the Banner district school. When seventeen years of age he entered Baker University, at Baldwin, Kans., and received further educational training. In 1886, he met with an accident which caused him to change his plans from farm to city life, and he spent a year at the Business College and State University at Lawrence as a teacher of elocution and oratory. He then went to Kansas City, Mo., and was employed as collector and manager for a large book concern for a time. After his marriage with a childhood playmate in 1888, he removed with his wife to a home in Kansas City. In four short months after this happy marriage, his wife was burned to death as a result of an explosion of gasoline. This terrible calamity caused him to again change his plans and he began ministerial work in April of 1889, when he spent a year on the Manhattan circuit. The following year he was sent to Olesburg, Garrison and Fostoria, where he spent two useful years. While on this charge he was married to Nannie E. Barnhouse, of Hopedale, Ohio. In 1891, they moved to Vermillion, Kans., where Mr. Hamm spent three pleasant years as pastor. In March, 1895, Rev. Hamm and wife moved to Hanover, and remained six months and was transferred from there to the Nevada mission and placed at Austin, Nev., where they spent two happy and useful years. The altitude of this location was too great for them to endure in comfort, and they were compelled to seek a lower level on account of Mrs. Hamm's health. They removed to Winnemucca, Nev., and spent two tragic years as missionaries, during which time he buried 104 people, eighty-six of whom died unnatural deaths. So much tragedy broke Mrs. Hamm's nervous system, and they were compelled to return to Kansas because of her failing health. In September of 1899, they returned to Holton, and within a week Rev. Hamm was appointed pastor of the Oneida church, where they spent one and a half years very pleasantly engaged in building themselves into the community life with which they mingled. In March, 1901, they removed to Dewey's Ranch, near Manhattan, Kans., and Mr. Hamm was manager of this ranch for three years, handling its large stock grazing and feeding enterprises on the 9,500 acres in his charge and caring for 3,000 cattle and from 400 to 500 horses and mules each year. In October of 1903, he severed his connection with the Dewey ranch on account of the Dewey-Berry tragedy in western Kansas, and became pastor of the Westmoreland, Kans., Methodist Episcopal Church. He continued in charge of this church until March, 1905, and November 8, 1904, he moved from Westmoreland to the old home place, inasmuch as his parents had moved to a home at Holton. Until March 1, 1916, he made his home on this farm and was very successful in breeding pure bred live stock and raising pure strains of grains. Mrs. Hamm died very suddenly on

December 9, 1912, of apoplexy, leaving four children, as follows: Merrill, Golden, Geraldine and Ferry, to mourn the loss of a loving mother and her husband the loss of a true helpmate and companion. The three older children are now doing for themselves. Merrill is a traveling salesman in Texas. Golden, now Mrs. Robert Armstrong, occupies the old home place. Geraldine, now Mrs. Francis Whitcraft, resides on a farm in the western part of Jackson county. Ferry, the youngest, makes his home at Ontario. Mr. Hamm was married on July 22, 1914, to Miss Anna B. Karns, and they divided their time between the two homes during the life time of Mrs. Hamm's mother. Since they have taken up their residence at the Rosary Stock Farm, they have been equipping the place as a model stock farm and expect to continue to raise the good kind of stock that adds to the betterment of the farming interests of the community. The community extends to them a hearty welcome, and bespeaks for them a useful journey together. Mr. Hamm hopes to become a part of Nemaha county community life, as well as to continue the management of the Hamm's Pioneer Stock Farm near Holton. May success crown his efforts.

Mr. Hamm has been president of the Jackson County Farmers' Institute during most of the twelve years he has been in charge of Hamm's pioneer and the Rosary Stock Farms, and was largely responsible for the organization of the present farmers' institute and stock show, which is one of the annual features of the county. He organized the Duroc Jersey Breeders Association of Kansas, and was its secretary-treasurer for two years. He assisted in organizing the Kansas Draft Horse Association and assisted in drafting the bill for the present stallion law. He is a member and has served as president one year of the Improved Grain Breeders Association, and holds the State record on acre yield of wheat per acre. Mr. Hamm is a breeder of Percheron horses and has produced some show animals that have taken ribbons in the closest contests held at the State and county fairs. He breeds Scotch Top Shorthorns and is an accurate judge of individual merit, and has added many good herd headers to the breeds of Jackson and other counties. He is a member of the Old Settlers Association, and has been honored with the presidency of the association.

Aside from his farm activities and public duties, Mr. Hamm has had charge of a church nearly all the years of his residence at the old home. He is one of the few men who have been called to the pastorate of the home church in which he was reared, and has occupied this position for nearly five years of the ten years which he has lately spent at home, serving the Circleville, Bateman, Banner and Pea Ridge churches. For nearly two years he was pastor of the Ontario church, which stands on the farm he occupies. The Banner church stands on the old home place. For nearly two years he preached on the Pottawatomie Indian reservation with great acceptability and at his own option without remuneration.

**Edwin Buehler.**—There are some who say that education is a waste of time, especially for a business man, but Edwin Buehler is not one of them. He has attended a number of higher educational institutions and finds that he is a much better business man than he would have otherwise been. Besides the practical utility of a college education, he finds the cultural value worth notice, and believes that his years in college were not wasted. Mr. Buehler has made a success in the clothing business and has amassed considerable property, and, therefore, is in a position to take the view he does.

Mr. Buehler was born July 3, 1875, in Rogersville, Ohio. His parents, John Rudolph and Elizabeth (Dietz) Buehler, had seven children. The father was born in Switzerland in 1829 and was a farmer the greater part of his life. However, in his earlier years, he was a stone mason, and for a time dealt in horses. He came to America when a young man and worked at various occupations. Thirty days after coming to Brown county, Kansas, he died; this was in 1886. He was married twice, his first wife's maiden name being Krebs. To the second union these three children were born: Elmer, Brown county, Kansas; Edwin, of whom this sketch treats; Robert O., of the electric light plant, Hiawatha, Kans.

Edwin Buehler came to Brown county with his parents and grew up in that section. After completing preparatory work, he entered the State Agricultural College at Manhattan, Kans., where he spent one year. Later, he took a classical course at Hiawatha Academy and spent a year at the University of Kansas, at Lawrence. He was a good student and was active in student affairs while in school.

After leaving school, he began work as a clerk for the Graham Clothing Company, at Hiawatha, but in 1900, three years later, he resigned and went to St. Joseph, Mo., and took employment with Richardson-Roberts Dry Goods Company as traveling salesman for two years. He then came to Seneca and became manager of the Graham Clothing Company and built up a good business. In 1907, he bought out the business and has carried it on since with increased success each year. He now handles a \$15,000 stock each year. He owns residences and town lots in Seneca, which are a testimonial to his business acumen.

He was married to Agnes L. Conwell on October 28, 1908, and two children have been born to them: John E. and Russell C., both living at home. Mrs. Buehler was born in Seneca, Kans., August 30, 1885, and is a daughter of Simon and Sarah (Butler) Conwell. The father was born in Ireland and practiced law in this county. Mrs. Buehler is a graduate of the Seneca High School.

Mr. Buehler is an independent Progressive in political matters and tries to decide each question on its merits solely. He is not a tool of any party machine and votes as he sees fit, regardless of the party affiliations of different candidates. He prides himself on being an intelligent voter and his very independence of party lines reveals this

trait, for it takes thought to study the issues and select them on a basis of merit. Mr. Buehler belongs to the German Reformed Church, and is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and is a Royal Arch Mason, and served as district deputy of the First District, Royal Arch Masons, for two years; and is a member of the Knights Templar, serving for three years as eminent commander of Knights Templar Commandery, No. 41, of Seneca. For a period of two years, Mr. Buehler served as president of the Seneca Commercial Club, and filled the office of secretary of this organization for two successive terms.

**Jacob A. Reinhart**, retired, Sabetha, Kans, was born in Switzerland, February 16, 1843. He is a son of Daniel and Mary Ann Reinhart, who emigrated from Switzerland to America in 1853, and located in Ohio, where Daniel Reinhart worked at his trade of tanner. He also taught school in his later years. He removed from Ohio to Indiana after some years and there he and his wife died.

The subject of this review attended the district schools of Indiana, and at the outbreak of the Civil war, he enlisted in the Union service at Mendota, Ill., becoming a member of Company D, Twenty-third Illinois infantry. This regiment was a part of Mulligan's brigade and saw much hard fighting during the Civil war. Mr. Reinhart fought in Gen. Phil Sheridan's command in the Shenandoah Valley campaign, and served until his honorable discharge from the service, March 17, 1865. After the war he farmed in Indiana until 1879, and then came to Nemaha county, Kansas, settling on a farm near Bern, in Washington township. He cultivated his fine farm until 1910, and then retired to a comfortable home in Sabetha. His first tract of Kansas land cost him \$2,000, and his home farm is well improved with good buildings and fencing. Mr. Reinhart owns a total of 390 acres, which he has accumulated during his thirty-seven years in Kansas, and he is well-to-do.

Mr. Reinhart was married in 1873 to Kathrine Ressen, born at Berne, Switzerland, May 23, 1850. Twelve children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Reinhart, as follows: Mrs. Matilda Matthews, Bern, Kans.; Albert, a miller at Bern, Kans.; Josephine, living at Bern, Kans.; Andrew and Norse, living in Indiana; Mrs. Caroline Kerl, living in Nebraska; Mrs. Dena Ginsler, deceased; Gideon, farmer in Nemaha county; Jonathan, cultivating the home farm; Edward, Ephraim and Florence, at home with their parents. Mr. Reinhart is a Republican in politics, and he and the members of the family are affiliated with the Apostolic Christian Church.

**George Kerr.**—Among the well known and highly successful live stock breeders of northeast Kansas is George Kerr, of Sabetha, Kans., who has made a distinct success as a breeder of Duroc Jersey swine, a specialized department of animal husbandry which is certain of high rewards for the individual who is possessed of sufficient intelligence and the will to carry out his operations along well defined lines. During the thirty-two years in which Mr. Kerr has been engaged as a

breeder of live stock, he has made a name for himself throughout Kansas and has accumulated considerable property, for the very simple reason that through his skill as a breeder he has produced animals for which live stock growers in distant counties and States were willing to pay excellent prices.

George Kerr was born June 16, 1857, in Platte county, Missouri, and is a son of John and Mary Jane (Rader) Kerr, of whom George is the only offspring. John Kerr was born in Virginia in 1801, and died when George was but eleven months old. He was a son of John and Mary (Calhoun) Kerr, who were descended from Irish ancestry. The mother of George Kerr was born in Ray county, Missouri, and now resides at Circleville, Kans., aged eighty-two years, having been born in 1834. She was three times married, her last marriage being with Frank Hill, a native of South Carolina, born in 1834. Eight children were born to this marriage, seven of whom are living.

The subject of this review was reared in Missouri and Kansas and received his schooling at Circleville, Kans., whither his mother and step-father removed, September 22, 1872, when he was a boy fifteen years old. When he was fifteen years of age he began life for himself and did a man's work at a wage of \$11 per month. He saved his earnings and made a payment on a farm in Jackson county, Kansas, which he farmed for a time, then sold out and bought a farm in Pottawatomie county, Kansas. Not liking his location, he bought his former Jackson county farm and cultivated it for another year. In 1890, Mr. Kerr came to Brown county, and invested in 120 acres of land in Brown county, one mile east and two miles south of Sabetha, Kans. His acreage has increased as his means allowed and he purchased in 1894 a fine tract of 200 acres of land in Capioma township, Nemaha county. He sold his first farm in 1894, and owns 143 acres south of Fairview, bought in 1909. Mr. Kerr first began breeding Poland China hogs in 1884, and handled this breed until 1895, when he began breeding Duroc Jersey swine. Success came to him in this line of special animal husbandry from the start, and he has made exhibits of his fine stock at the Hutchinson State Fair, and won several prizes. The products of his breeding pens are in regular demand, and he ships hogs for breeding purposes to buyers and hog fanciers in many localities. He remained in active charge of his farm until September 1, 1915, and then took up his residence in Sabetha. Both of Mr. Kerr's farms are well improved with good buildings and fencing, and are very productive.

Mr. Kerr was married on June 20, 1880, to Mary M. Clowe, born May 28, 1864, in Hocking county, Ohio, a daughter of Elijah Bell and Lizzie (Whitcraft) Clowe, natives of the Buckeye State. Five children have been born of this marriage, namely: Minta May, born September 1, 1881, died September 5, 1881; John, traveling salesman with headquarters at Sabetha, Kans.; Nella May, wife of Roy Dixon, Butler county, Kansas; Harrison, a farmer in Capioma township; Noel, traveling sales-



man located at Spokane, Wash. The Clowe family migrated from Ohio to Kansas in 1868, and bought a farm in Jackson county near Holton, Kans., for which Mr. Clowe paid \$3 per acre. Elijah Bell Clowe was born March 10, 1825, and died January 3, 1905. Mrs. Lizzie (Whitcraft) Clowe was born November 14, 1832, and died November 20, 1903. They were married August 8, 1850. Mrs. Kerr graduated from the Holton High School, and pursued a special course in vocal and instrumental music under skilled teachers. John Kerr, her son, is a graduate of Campbell University. Nella is a graduate of the Grand Island, Neb., Business College; Harrison was a student at the Kansas State Agricultural College at Manhattan, Kans., and Noel graduated from Sabetha High School, and also studied at the Manhattan College. Mr. and Mrs. Kerr are to be congratulated upon the excellent education, which they have given each of their children. Mrs. Kerr is a member of the Congregational church.

Mr. Kerr is a Republican in politics, and is a member of the National Duroc Breeders' Association.

**Fred Ukele.**—The accomplishments of Fred Ukele during the forty-seven years of his residence in Kansas are truly remarkable when one considers that for the past forty-three years Mr. Ukele has been a cripple. During his period of residence in Kansas he rose to become one of the large land owners of Nemaha county, and has reared a fine family. It is a noteworthy fact that Mr. Ukele cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln on the great battlefield of Lookout Mountain. He is one of the last of the vast army of Union veterans who fought to preserve the Union. His life has been marked by a display of good citizenship and he has served his fellow citizens in various useful capacities during his long life. Pioneer settler, Union veteran, substantial citizen, Fred Ukele is one of the honored men of Sabetha and Nemaha county.

Fred Ukele was born in a log cabin located in a clearing of the dense forest of Washtenaw county, Michigan, in April, 1842. He is a son of Christian and Christina (Stohlstamear) Ukele, who were the parents of eight children, as follows: Mrs. Lena Reade, Mrs. Louise Gakle, Mrs. Mary Maley, deceased; Fred, the subject of this review; John, deceased; Mrs. Rachel Weldt, living in Michigan; Edward, Wallace county, Kansas; Jacob, residing in South Dakota. Christian Ukele was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, in 1808, and became a baker in his native city. Not very long after he became of age in Germany, he decided to immigrate to America. He located in Detroit and worked at his trade of baker for some time and was there married. After his marriage he and his wife journeyed to the dense woods of Michigan and hewed a farm from the wilderness of Washtenaw county and reared a family of children, as before stated.

The mother of Fred Ukele was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, in 1811, and was a daughter of John and Sarah (Sterley) Stohlstamear, who drove a team to the port of Hamburg and there set sail for America, making the long voyage by sailing vessel. They were on the ocean for





FRED UKELE AND GRANDSON, FRED.



SAMUEL WEART.



seventy days. John Stohlstamear sold his team of horses in Hamburg, but was unable to sell his wagon. He accordingly had it loaded on the vessel, and upon landing at New York City, he purchased a team of oxen, which furnished the means of transportation for his family and belongings to Michigan, where he made his home.

Fred Ukele was reared amid the most primitive surroundings in the great forests of Michigan, and attended district school, held in a little log school house. When he became old enough to wield and swing an axe, he began working in the timber and continued at this occupation until 1861. At this time he moved to Henry county, Illinois, and three years later, in 1864, he enlisted for service in the Union army. He became a member of Company I, One Hundred and Forty-Sixth Illinois infantry, and took part in some severe fighting until the close of the war. He was at the battle of Columbus, Tenn., and participated in the chase after General Hood's army through Tennessee and the Carolinas. When he returned from the war, Mr. Ukele learned the blacksmith's trade and worked at that trade for three and a half years, in the employment of the Chicago & Rock Island Railway Company, at Geneseo, Ill. In 1869, he came to Nemaha county, Kansas, and worked for one year as a farm hand at \$25 per month. He then bought 160 acres of prairie land in section 27 of Berwick township. His first move was the erection of a shanty, 16x18 feet, the boards for which were sawed from cottonwood logs and hauled from White Cloud, Kans. Mr. Ukele paid \$7 per acre for having his land broken to plow and made ready for planting his first crops. He gradually improved his land and prospered, as he deserved, and made a great success as a stockman, specializing in hogs. At one time Mr. Ukele owned 600 acres of land in Nemaha and Smith counties, which he deeded to his sons. He retired from active farm work in 1906, and moved to a nice residence property in Sabetha.

Fred Ukele has been twice married, his first marriage being with Jena Olson, in 1864. The first Mrs. Ukele was born in 1839, and died in 1908. Two children were born to this marriage, namely: Edward, farming the home place in Nemaha county, and Sylvan engaged in the insurance business at Kansas City, Mo. Mr. Ukele reared another child named Clyde Muxworthy, who lives at Bern, Kans. In 1910, Mr. Ukele married Sarah Bowser, born August 11, 1874, in Geary county, Maryland, a daughter of Hiram and Barbara (Brown) Bowser, the former of whom was born in 1842 and died in 1896. Mrs. Barbara Bowser was born in 1846 and died in March, 1881. Both parents were born and reared in Maryland. Mrs. Ukele came to Kansas in 1900 and joined her brother, Emery, at that time farming near Bern, in this county, but who is now living in Dickinson county, Kansas.

Mr. Ukele is a Progressive in politics, and in former years was the Republican leader of Berwick township, and cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln at Lookout Mountain, Tenn. He has held several township offices and was a member of the school board in Berwick township

for twenty-one years, and has served as justice of the peace. He is affiliated with the Grand Army of the Republic Post of Sabetha. One of the interesting heirlooms of the family which is highly prized by Mr. Ukele is an old newspaper published in New York, January 4, 1800, by Samuel Freer & Son.

Mr. Ukele has one grandson, Fred Ukele, and a granddaughter, Charsta Ukele.

**Courtland L. Parker.**—From driver of a coal wagon in the employ of the Derby Grain Company to becoming an officer and part owner and manager of this large concern is the splendid accomplishment of Courtland L. Parker, of Sabetha, Kans. For a self educated young man, Mr. Parker has had a highly successful career, and through all of his success, he is an unassuming, obliging gentleman who is well liked by his many friends, acquaintances and the patrons of the company which he represents. The story of his rise to his present position is in itself a direct refutation of the oft stated excuse of young men of the present day that opportunity for advancement is not what it was in former days.

Courtland L. Parker, manager of the Derby Grain and Coal Company of Sabetha, was born in Sabetha, July 31, 1884, and is a son of Wickcliffe and Ellen (Davidson) Parker, to whom seven children were born, of whom Courtland L. is the sixth in order of birth. Wickcliffe Parker was born at Janesville, Wis., October 23, 1846, and was reared on a farm until the outbreak of the Civil war when he entered the employ of the United States Government as a teamster. After the close of his Government service, he taught school; came to Sabetha, Kans., in 1880, and engaged in the selling of a bed spring patented and manufactured by himself. He disposed of his manufactured product within a radius of fifty miles of Sabetha. He died in 1910. The mother of Courtland L. Parker was born in Michigan City, Ind., September 6, 1850, and was there reared and married. She died August 18, 1914. She was a deeply religious woman, and was an active worker in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Courtland L. Parker was educated in the Sabetha schools, and graduated from the high school of his native city. At the age of eighteen years, he entered the employ of the Derby Grain Company as driver of a coal wagon, making deliveries to Sabetha patrons of the company. For the past fourteen years, he has remained in the employ of this concern, and has advanced from his first humble position to become a stockholder in the company, secretary and treasurer, and was appointed manager of the company in 1910. Besides the grain and coal business in Sabetha, Mr. Parker has charge of six large elevators located on the Rock Island railroad, which have his personal supervision. For a period of five years of his service, he was manager of the Derby Grain Elevator at Powhattan, Kans.

Mr. Parker was married on June 1, 1910, to Miss Stella Bartley, born March 7, 1888, at Powhattan, Kans. Mrs. Parker is a daughter of Sam-

uel and Mary (Callahan) Bartley, natives of Virginia, who migrated to Kansas, and are now making their home at Powhattan. Mr. and Mrs. Bartley are the parents of eleven children, all of whom are living within a radius of twenty-five miles of their home place.

Mr. Parker is a Republican in his political affiliations, and is a member of the Methodist church, of which organization he is a member of the official board. He is very active in religious work as carried on by his denomination, and is secretary of the music committee, chorister of the Sunday school, and superintendent of the intermediate department of the Sunday school. He is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and the Knights and Ladies of Security.

**Arthur J. Collins**, president of the National Bank of Sabetha, Kans., was born in Sabetha, January 7, 1873. He is a son of Ira F. and Sarah M. (Moorehead) Collins, old residents of Nemaha county.

Ira F. Collins, his father, was born in Cass county, Illinois, October 14, 1845, and is a son of Thomas Jefferson and Julia (Fowler) Collins. Thomas J. Collins was born in Ohio in 1800, and was a son of Pratt and Eliza Collins, who were natives of Ireland. In August of 1862, Ira F. Collins enlisted at Virginia, Ill., in Company D, One Hundred Fourteenth volunteer infantry, and saw much active service during the Civil war, in the armies of Generals Grant and Sherman. He received a wound in the head at Guntown, Miss., and remained in the army hospital for sixty days. He was also taken prisoner at Guntown and interned at Cahaba, Ala., where he was held for nine months until exchanged. His greatest battle was at Vicksburg, Miss. Mr. Collins was discharged from the service on July 25, 1865, and in the fall of that year, he migrated to Nemaha county, Kansas, and located five miles north of Sabetha. His first purchase was a quarter section of land in Berwick township. He farmed his land until 1870, and then removed to Sabetha, and engaged in general merchandising until 1890 when he sold out his store and retired. In 1912, he embarked in the breeding of Holstein cattle and breeds thoroughbred cattle for fanciers of this breed of cattle who wish to improve their herds. Mr. Collins is owner of 320 acres of land, and has an interest in the National Bank of Sabetha.

Ira F. Collins was married in 1868 to Sarah Moorehead, who was born in Iowa in 1850, and died April 22, 1915. Five children were born to this marriage, as follows: Mrs. F. G. Hammon, Sabetha, Kans.; Arthur J., subject of this review; Mrs. Myrtle Storm, whose husband, W. H. Storm, is a farmer in Berwick township; Grace, wife of George R. Jones, a clothing merchant of Emporia, Kans.; Helen, wife of Dr. E. J. Harold, a dental practitioner of Sabetha.

Mr. Collins is a progressive Republican, and filled the office of State representative from 1881 to 1885, and has served as mayor of Sabetha. For forty-five years he has been affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and the Grand Army Post.

Arthur J. Collins, with whom this review is directly concerned, was educated in the Sabetha High School and Spalding's Business College at Kansas City, Mo. When seventeen years old, he began clerking in his father's store. In 1894, he was employed at St. Joseph, Mo., as office clerk for the Richardson-Roberts and Bern Dry Goods Company. He resigned this position in January, 1897, and returned to Sabetha, where he entered the National Bank of Sabetha as bookkeeper. He was promoted to the post of assistant cashier in 1898, and later was cashier of the bank until his election to the presidency of this strong institution in 1908. Mr. Collins is also a director of the First National Bank of Hia-watha, Kans.

Mr. Collins was married, in 1907, to Edith, daughter of George W. Williams, of Seneca, Kans., a review of whose life is given in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Collins have one child: Mary Catharine, born August 20, 1914.

Mr. Collins is a Republican in politics, and is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He is treasurer of the Sabetha Blue Lodge.

**Samuel Weart**, of Gilman township, is a Kansas pioneer and one time freighter, who bears the added distinction of having been an Indian fighter during his freighting days. He was born in Ohio, October 16, 1847, and is a son of Louis and Sarah Ann (Kirkendall) Weart. His father was born in New Jersey in 1809, and removed with his parents to Ohio in a very early day. He took up farming, was married in 1840, and in 1859 migrated to Nemaha county, Kansas, taking up a location on the banks of Harris creek, in Gilman township. His first tract of land came into his possession through a mortgage which he held and foreclosed. He died in Kansas, on the Weart home place, in 1863. Sarah Ann (Kirkendall) Weart was born in New Jersey and died in Indiana, where she and her husband had gone previous to Mr. Weart's coming to Kansas. Her demise occurred in 1852. Louis and Sarah Weart were the parents of five children, as follows: William and Augustus, deceased; Samuel, the subject of this review; John Berry, a farmer in Washington; David, deceased.

Samuel Weart was ten years old when his father came to Kansas from Indiana, and he remained at home until he attained the age of twenty-five years. When still a youth in his teens he became a freighter, and was in the employ of the government for some time. He drove six oxen from Seneca during the years of 1864 and 1865, and transported merchandise to Ft. Halleck, and his father also hauled provisions from Atchison to Seneca for the merchants of that city. In 1864, while driving a team for John Wright, their outfit was attacked by Indians to the number of twenty-five or thirty on the South Platte river. There were three wagons in the convoy of eighteen men, but these men were sufficient to withstand the attack of the savages, and easily beat them off and killed their leader, with several of his warriors, the Indian attack

being somewhat ineffective because of a high wind deflecting their arrows. The whites lost but one driver in this fight. This train was the first to go through up the Little Blue valley after the Indian uprising and massacre of that period, and were followed by United States soldiers. After his service as a freighter, he resumed the peaceful pursuit of farming for himself on eighty acres of the home place, and eventually bought out the other heirs and came into possession of the tract. By dint of industry and good management, he has come into possession of 180 acres of well improved land in Gilman township.

Mr. Weart was married in 1876 to Margaret Kaiser, daughter of Nicholas and Marguerite Kaiser, who died, leaving three children, namely: Henry, deceased; Mrs. Maggie Andrews, Marysville, Kans., mother of two children; John, deceased. His second marriage was with Mrs. Katie E. Howard, on May 3, 1904, widow of George Howard, Jr., of Denver, Colo. She was first married to George Howard, May 5, 1897, at Denver, Colo. Mr. Howard was born in Ohio in 1874, reared on a farm near Tonganoxie, Kans., where his parents, George and Lizzie Howard, had settled, later removing to Denver. George, Jr., became a brakeman on the Union Pacific railroad, and was killed in 1899, while coupling cars on the Denver & Rio Grande railroad at Alamosa, Colo. His widow, now Mrs. Weart (maiden name Kennedy), was born in Ireland, November 15, 1874, and came to Kansas City, Mo., with her parents when three years old. She graduated from the sisters' school in 1889, was married in 1894 to Mr. Howard, and has one child by this marriage: Geneva, wife of William Nelson, Oneida, Kans.

Mr. and Mrs. Weart are members of the Catholic church, and Mrs. Weart belongs to the altar society of the church in Kansas City. Mr. Weart is a Republican in politics.

**Rev. John Plattner**, Sabetha, Kans., pastor of the Apostolic Christian Church of Nemaha county, was born at Basil, Switzerland, February 28, 1853, and is a son of Jacob and Anna Marie (Frei) Plattner, who were tillers of the soil in their native land, and lived and died in Switzerland. John Plattner was one of six children born to his parents. His father died in 1881; his mother departed this life in 1861, when he was eight years old.

Mr. Plattner received a good common school education in his native country, and in 1873, he immigrated to America, and located at Peoria, Ill., where he was employed as farm hand for some time until he could begin farming on his own account. He was there married, and joined the Apostolic Christian denomination (Amish). In 1882, he, with others, migrated to Kansas, and joined the Amish or Apostolic Christian settlement six miles west of Sabetha in Nemaha county. Mr. Plattner was appointed presiding elder or minister of the church, and is now serving in that capacity.

Rev. Plattner has carried on his duties as leader and adviser of the Apostolic Christians while attending to his farming interests, and has

become well-to-do. When he came to Nemaha county, he purchased 160 acres of land seven miles west of Sabetha upon which was located a small house and indifferent improvements, which have since been replaced by a good home and barns and other outbuildings. This first farm cost him \$2,000, and his acreage in Nemaha county has since been increased to the large total of 400 acres in different tracts, in addition to two town properties. Mr. Plattner left the farm, March 2, 1905, and resides in a comfortable home in Sabetha.

Rev. John Plattner was married October 24, 1878, to Lida Kellar, and they have reared an orphaned nephew and niece, children of Henry Plattner, namely: Jacob, farming on his Uncle John's land; Mrs. Anna Edelman, also living on a farm in Washington township. Mrs. Lida Plattner was born July 23, 1859, at Zurich, Switzerland, and is a daughter of Jacob and Anna (Wirgler) Kellar, who immigrated to America in 1874, and settled on a farm near Peoria, Ill. Jacob died there in 1887, and the mother of Mrs. Plattner took up her residence with Mr. and Mrs. Plattner, dying in December, 1903. For the past thirty-four years, Rev. Plattner has served as elder of his church faithfully and well.

**David Durham Wickins.**—"Fifty years a Kansan" is the record of David Durham Wickins, Union veteran, and former postmaster of Sabetha, Kans., and one of the best loved and highly respected citizens of his community. Mr. Wickins was born on a farm in Will county, (now Kankakee), Illinois, July 16, 1842, and is a son of Joseph and Barbara S. (Durham) Wickins, natives of Tennessee, both of whom were members of old Southern American families. Joseph Wickins was a very early settler in Will county, Illinois, and removed from Tennessee to Illinois in 1834. He developed a farm in the Kankakee region and died in 1855, leaving a widow with five children, as follows: Thomas Wiley, migrated to Kansas, and died at Sabetha, Kans.; William, was accidentally drowned in the Kankakee river in 1854; Joseph, deceased; David Durham, with whom this review is concerned; Frank, living in Kankakee. The mother of these children was born in 1816, and died in Illinois in 1882 in the sixty-sixth year of her long and useful life.

David Durham Wickins was reared on the farm in Illinois, and received such schooling as was afforded by the district schools of his neighborhood. When the first call for troops with which to quell the rebellion of the southern States was issued by President Lincoln in April of 1861, and Sumter had been fired upon, David D. Wickins was one of the first to respond to the call issued by the man who had been chosen from his own State to bear the burdens of a sorrowful time for the next four years. He enlisted in Company G of the Twentieth Illinois infantry regiment, and served for three years and three months. His regiment was an integral part of the Seventeenth corps, Army of the Tennessee, under the command of General McPherson. His first engagement was at Frederickstown, Mo. At midnight, on January 6, he was again under fire near Charlestown, Mo.; February 2, 1862, he was present at the cap-



ture of Ft. Henry; February 16 and 17, he participated in the assault upon Fort Donelson; his next great battle was at Shiloh, April 6 and 7, 1862; Raymond, Miss., May 12, 1863. At the battle of Raymond, he was wounded in both hands and one leg—a bullet passing through the right hand—and he was incapacitated for an entire year, but served out his time of enlistment, and received his discharge at Chattanooga, Tenn., June 27, 1864.

He returned to the home of his mother in Illinois after the war, and remained at home until his immigration to Kansas in 1866. W. Wickins first settled in Brown county near Sabetha and broke up the virgin prairie soil of his farm with oxen during the first season. After his marriage in October of this year, he and his bride returned to Illinois, where they resided until 1873, and then made a permanent settlement in Sabetha, where Mr. Wickins conducted a retail meat market. In 1874 he established the first transfer business in the city and operated it successfully until 1880. He then engaged in the buying and shipping of live stock, and operated a coal business, in connection with his transfer business. He worked for a time in a hardware store. In 1882, he was appointed appraiser of the Oto Indian reserve. Later he opened and conducted the first grocery store in Sabetha, in which the business was confined strictly to groceries and eatables, sometime afterward including it with a general store, which he eventually closed out and again operated a grocery store, until he engaged in the real estate and insurance business.

Mr. Wickins was married at Hiawatha, Kans., October 11, 1866, to Amanda M. Hawkins, of Kankakee, Ill., and daughter of Almon Hawkins, who immigrated to Kansas in 1859. Mrs. Wickins was born December 12, 1848. The following children have been born to David and Amanda Wickins: Edward, Salt Lake City, Utah, chief clerk in the general offices and in charge of the freight department of the Oregon short line, married Ruth Posson and has two daughters, Gladys and Florence; Kate E., wife of O. D. Gaff, Tacoma, Wash., has a son, Oliver, dentist in Chicago; Della, wife of A. F. Washington, St. Joseph, Mo., has one daughter, Katherine; Charles, St. Louis, Mo., engaged in the commission produce business, married Zella Hyde.

Mr. Wickins is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Blue Lodge No. 162, and is affiliated with Grand Army Post No. 175 of Sabetha, Kans. He is the pioneer auctioneer of Nemaha county, and for forty years cried sales in northeast Kansas successfully. For eleven years he was a member of the board of county commissioners, having been elected a member of the board in 1889 and served for eleven years thereafter. During his term as commissioner, the county jail was erected. Mr. Wickins was appointed postmaster of Sabetha in 1912 by President Taft, and served for four years, or until May, 1916. He has given the patrons of the postoffice an excellent administration, and has conducted the affairs of his important governmental position to the sat-

isfaction of every one concerned, and faithfully performed the duties of the office. It was with real regret that many patrons saw a change in the personnel of the office force at the expiration of Mr. Wickins' time. "Uncle Dave," as he is affectionately known by the citizens of Sabetha, is one of the landmarks of this beautiful city, and beloved of every one who knows him and esteemed for his sturdy and upright citizenship.

**George W. Williams**, farmer, Oneida, Nemaha county, Kansas, was born in 1847, at California, Moniteau county, Missouri, and is a son of Eli W. and Eliza (English) Williams, natives of Pennsylvania and Moniteau county, Missouri, respectively. Eli Williams was a son of James Williams, of Pennsylvania, and was born near the city of Harrisburg. The Williams family emigrated from Moniteau county, Missouri, to Kansas in 1855, and made settlement on a farm of 160 acres on Deer creek, in Nemaha county, now well known by the name of "Williamsdale." The Williams farm is one of the oldest farms in Kansas, and has been owned by members of the Williams family for the past sixty years. Here on the unbroken prairie lands, Eli Williams made a settlement and was thus one of the first pioneer settlers of Nemaha county. He took a prominent part in the early struggles in Kansas and was here during the territorial difficulties. Eli W. Williams was elected a member of the State legislature scheduled to meet at Lecompton. Richard Clency was his personal bodyguard and the trip to Lecompton had been planned, and it was arranged that the two men go on horseback to the meeting. They had good horses saddled, with saddle bags and canteens for water. A sack was thrown across the back of the saddles, which contained flour and bacon, and a frying pan, gun and hatchet completed the outfit. On the morning of their proposed departure, Jim Lane sent messengers to them, telling them not to start, as they would be killed, and to defend themselves as best they could until he (Lane) could meet them. It was a time of trial and trouble for the family, and George and his sister, Fanny, stood guard all night at the cabin door with axe and knife handy, ready to sell their lives dearly in defense of their father's life.

At another time a man named William Sawyer sought to take away their homestead, but was not successful. He became enraged at his failure and threatened to waylay them some dark night on their way to the river and kill them. George and his father went armed all the time during those fearsome days, and always slept on their guns.

Eli W. Williams died at Oneida, Kans., April 3, 1865. His wife was Eliza English, born in Moniteau county, Missouri, and a daughter of Judge James English. She died at Oneida, September 15, 1885. Eli and Eliza Williams were the parents of the following children: George W., the subject of this review; Eli Milton, Denver, Colo.; Amon I., road supervisor of Gilman township, and who claims to have "slept the most nights of any living person in Nemaha county;" Boyd Lincoln, Flagler, Colo.; Mrs. Mary Frances Cox, Oneida, Kans.; Elizabeth Bare, who is said to be the first white child born in Nemaha county, Kansas, now



GEORGE W. WILLIAMS.



MRS. ALICE (GRAY) WILLIAMS.



LAURIN L. WILLIAMS.



deceased, and Mrs. Eliza Jane Johnson, wife of Perry Johnson, deceased. The parents and members of this noted pioneer family are all members of the Christian church.

George Williams was seventeen years old when his father died, and he was left to help an invalid mother rear a family of boys and girls in a new and barren country. With ox teams he helped break up the virgin sod. With four yoke of oxen he hauled all the family supplies from the Missouri river, and hauled lumber with ox teams to build the first drug store erected in Seneca, for Dr. McKay. The overland trail to the Far West passed through Oneida and Seneca at this time, and great wagon trains of gold seekers were constantly passing through on their way to the mountains of California. Many of the pony express riders and the old United States rangers were well known to him.

Mr. Williams has often seen large herds of deer on the land where Oneida now stands, and he has many times seen hostile bands of Indians decked out with paint and war regalia and looking for trouble, but no depredations were committed by the savages nearer to the Williams' home than the Little Blue.

Mr. Williams has developed the Williams homestead into a fine productive farm, and has prospered during the many years in which he has been a resident of Kansas. In point of years of residence, he is probably the oldest living pioneer citizen of Nemaha county at this day. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Shipping Association of Onedia, and is a charter member of the Knights and Ladies of Security. He has traveled over a considerable portion of the United States, with his wife accompanying him part of the time, when she was engaged in the United States Indian service. He served as industrial teacher at Tuba, Ariz., in the Navajo country, and also held that position with the Kickapoo Indian tribe at Horton, Kans. He was government farmer at Tuba for a time, and did a great amount of good in behalf of the Indians, because he was practical in his instructive work, and taught the Indians from what knowledge he had accumulated from many years of actual experience in tilling the Western soil.

George W. Williams was married November 23, 1881, to Miss Alice Mabel Gray, a pioneer teacher of Brown county, Kansas. This marriage has been blessed with a son and a daughter, as follows: Maude, died in infancy; Laurin L., born in Oneida in 1883, and resides on the historic Williams farm. He served for five years as rural free delivery carrier out of Seneca, but liking the farm life as more suited to his tastes, he returned to the home place.

He (Laurin L.) was educated in the common schools of Kansas, and finished a course in painting at Campbell University, Holton, Kans. He has some talent as an artist and loves the out door life, and is a lover of all animal life. He keeps a kennel of thoroughbred dogs, and his pack of wolf.hounds are his pride.

Mrs. Alice Mabel (Gray) Williams was born at Hiawatha, Kans.,

a daughter of John and Annie Maria (McCune) Gray, natives of New York. John Gray, the father, settled at Hiawatha, Brown county, Kansas, in May of 1857. There was just one house in Hiawatha at the time Mr. Gray came there to make his future home. He located a homestead one mile north of Hiawatha, and lived there for many years. At the outbreak of the Civil war, he joined a company of guards organized in Brown county for service in the Union army under Capt. I. J. Lacock. This company journeyed to Atchison and tried to be mustered in as a part of the First Kansas infantry, but were disappointed. The company was gone from their homes for three months and eventually disbanded. Mr. Gray then enrolled in the militia, but was rejected at Leavenworth, Kans. James Pope was captain of the company in which he enrolled. Still desirous and anxious to serve his country, he joined the home guards, under Lieutenant Perkins, and assisted in repelling of the Price invasion of Kansas. In later years he was always proud to relate the fact that he took part in the expedition which resulted in General Price and his rebel army being driven from Kansas. While Mr. Gray was away in the Union service, the wife and mother cribbed 1,000 bushels of corn and cut and hauled the winter's fuel from the woods, a distance of seven miles. The little family lived all alone and were perfectly unprotected. John Gray was possessed of a roving disposition. He was one of the original "Forty-Niners" and crossed the plains to the gold fields of California during the great rush of 1849. He returned home via Cape Horn. He went on many freighting expeditions to Pike's Peak and was an old Indian fighter.

John Gray was married in Illinois in 1857 to Annie Maria McCune, who was born in New York, left an orphan at the age of twelve years, and then made her home with a cousin. This cousin was an editor, who came to Kansas in 1854 to help edit the "Herald of Freedom." Mrs. Gray was at Lawrence, Kans., when the town was sacked and burned by the pro-slavery ruffians, and she lost all earthly belongings. She then went to Illinois with a pro-slavery family named McVeigh, and was there married. Six sons and a daughter were born to this marriage, namely: Anson, Los Angeles, Cal.; Arthur, Medford, Okla.; Walter, Grant, Okla.; Dell, Muscotah, Kans.; Fred, Florence, Kans.; Mrs. George W. Williams, with whom this review is concerned. All of the Gray children are prosperous and are upright and worthy citizens of their respective communities. John Gray died in Oklahoma in 1906. Mrs. Annie Maria Gray died in 1885. Both lie buried in Fairview cemetery, Goff, Kans.

Mrs. Alice Williams was reared and educated at Hiawatha, Kans., and has taught school during the greater part of her mature life, of late years having been engaged in the Indian service. Her first appointment in the Indian service was at Tuba, Ariz., as a teacher among the Western Navajos. She was lovingly called the "Soniskee" by that mighty tribe of 24,000 members. At her own request she was trans-

ferred to the Great Nemaha School of Iowa Indians and worked for several years on the reservation in Brown county, Kansas, not far from her early home. When the Oneida postoffice was placed under the civil service, Mrs. Williams took the examination held to select some one to fill the place, and she was appointed postmistress of Oneida.

Mr. Williams is her able assistant in taking care of the duties of the postoffice. She is a stockholder of the Best Slate Company of Mena, Ark., a growing concern with a bright future, and owns land near White Cloud, Neb., and has western property and a nice residence property in Seneca.

Mrs. Williams is a member of the Knights and Ladies of Security of Seneca, Kans. She has long been a working member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and was president of the Seneca union for three years. She was a member of the Women's Relief Corps of Seneca for some time, and was patriotic instructor of the corps. At the present time she is camp guardian of the Camp Fire Girls of the Minnehaha Camp at Oneida. The collection of Indian relics possessed by Mrs. Williams is the finest in this section of the State, and she has taken great pride and infinite pains in making her noted collection during many years.

Speaking from an ancestral standpoint, the paternal grandfather of Mrs. Williams was Anson Gray, a native of New York, and a direct descendant from the Grays of old Revolutionary stock. Her maternal grandmother was Jane Harris, of Pennsylvania, whose father was John Harris, the famous founder of Harrisburg, Pa., and a direct descendant from an ancestor who came to America with the Mayflower contingent. Members of the Harris family fought in the American revolution in behalf of independence.

**Fred Colfax Woodbury.**—Personal achievement in the realms of finance always stands out prominently, and requires advancement above the mediocre and commonplace, ability of a definite order, and inherent endowments of mental and physical attributes possessed by few men. The individual who can lift himself beyond the ordinary channels of his life profession is worthy of notice and praise—and is especially marked as a rising citizen, if banking is his vocation. Fred Colfax Woodbury, president of the Citizens State Bank of Sabetha, Kans., is a rising financier and banking official of northern Kansas, whose career has been a noteworthy one and his success is indicative of attainments beyond the ordinary. While having been a resident of Nemaha county but a few years, he has taken a prominent place in the civic and social life of the community, and is looked upon as an enterprising and gifted individual who has the best interests of his city and county at heart. It is a relief, in these days of rabid commercialism, to find a citizen who looks beyond the mere money grubbing instinct, and strives to make himself useful in valued ways to his fellowmen without hope of reward other than the approbation and good will of his fellowmen.

Fred Colfax Woodbury was born June 8, 1868, in Livingston county, Illinois, and is descended from old American stock, and a member of the noted Woodbury family, identified with early Colonial history, the founders of which settled at Plymouth, Mass., and Hartford, Conn., in the seventeenth century, and later moved to the valleys of Vermont. The great-grandfather of Mr. Woodbury was a soldier in the American Revolution. Fred Colfax Woodbury is a son of Hilton H. and Virginia (Clark) Woodbury, natives of Vermont and Kentucky respectively. Hilton H. Woodbury was born December 3, 1843, and was a son of Willard L. Woodbury, a contractor and farmer, who immigrated to Livingston county, Illinois, in 1855, and broke up the virgin prairie soil on his homestead. He was also a house builder and contractor who did an extensive business during his life time. He migrated to Cherokee, Crawford county, Kansas, in 1875, and followed farming until his demise in 1899. Hilton H. Woodbury was married in Illinois and moved westward to Cherokee, Crawford county, Kansas, in 1884. He farmed until 1886, and then located at Ford, Ford county, Kansas, where he became engaged in the buying and shipping of live stock and in banking pursuits. He has become a man of large interests, and is president and majority stockholder of the Ford State Bank. Hilton and Virginia Woodbury are the parents of six children, as follows: Lindon C., a railroad man, Newton, Kans.; Fred Colfax, subject of this review; four children are deceased. The mother of these children was born in Kentucky, November 18, 1846, and died April 10, 1901. She was a daughter of John Clark, who removed from Kentucky to Bloomington, Ill., in an early day, and became a merchant tailor, and established a clothing business.

F. C. Woodbury received his primary education in the public schools of Cherokee, Kans., graduated from the high school, and completed a business course at Kansas City, Kans. For some time, he was identified with a wholesale grain and retail concern in Chicago. In 1892, he returned to Kansas and located in Ford county, where he served as superintendent of public instruction for several terms, and was also interested in the live stock and banking business with his father. He later devoted his time and talents to the banking business at Ford, Kans., where he resided until 1898, and then removed to Pawnee Rock, Kans., and organized the Farmers and Merchants State Bank. He remained in charge of this bank until his removal to Sabetha, Kans., in 1913, consequent to his purchase of the Hesseltine interests in the Citizens State Bank. Mr. Woodbury's ability and his attractive and likable personality have done much toward advancing the progress of the Citizens State Bank, during the past three years, and he has taken his place among the leaders of Nemaha county during this time. Besides his large banking interests, he owns a fine grain farm in Pawnee county, Kansas.

Mr. Woodbury was married, in 1894, to Miss Grace Shaffer, of Spearville, Ford county, Kansas, a daughter of J. D. Shaffer, deceased lumber merchant of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Woodbury have one child, namely: Hilton S., born in September, 1898.



The Republican party has always had the allegiance of Mr. Woodbury, and he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which denomination he takes an active and influential part. Being a speaker of ready and entertaining address, he is frequently called upon to address church gatherings, and teaches the young men's Bible class of the Methodist Episcopal Sunday school. He is a trustee and member of the official board of the Sabetha Methodist Church. Mr. Woodbury is one of the active promoters of the farm bureau movement in Nemaha county, and the farmers' institute, and is prominently identified with all good movements tending to advance the well being of his home city and county. He is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Knights of Pythias, the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Knights and Ladies of Security.

**William Logan Carlyle, M. D.**—Dr. William Logan Carlyle, general practitioner and anaesthetist of the Sabetha Hospital, Sabetha, Kans., was born May 22, 1866, on a farm in Adams county, Illinois, near Quincy. He is a son of William (born 1821, died 1891) and Sarah (Strong) Carlyle, (born January 9, 1826, died December 28, 1906, in Omaha, Neb.), both of whom were born and reared in England. William Carlyle emigrated from England in 1832; Sarah Strong emigrated from her native land to America in 1835; they met and were married at Beverly, Adams county, Illinois. Some years later, the family immigrated to Nebraska and made a settlement in Cass county in 1872. The Civil war record of William Carlyle, however, should precede any further account of this couple. Mr. Carlyle enlisted in the One Hundred Twenty-fourth Illinois infantry in 1862, for a period of three years, and fought in many noted engagements such as Big Black River, siege and capture of Vicksburg, Miss.; Champion Hills, Raymond and Jackson, Miss.; and his command occupied and policed the city of Vicksburg after the surrender of the city. He fought at the battle of Spanish Fort in April of 1865. This was one of the last engagements of the great war.

In 1872, William Carlyle made a settlement in Cass county, Nebraska, and developed a fine farm. In old age he retired to a home at Weeping Water, and died there. Five children were born to William and Sarah Carlyle, as follows: Robert B., a boiler maker, Omaha, Neb.; S. L., a gardener at Forest Grove, Oregon; Edward, boiler maker, Omaha, Neb.; William L., subject of this review; Mrs. Margaret Thomas, living in Oregon.

William L. Carlyle was educated in the district schools and the academy at Weeping Water, Neb., and graduated from the Rush Medical College at Chicago in 1893. He practiced medicine at University Place, Neb., for four years; Kimball, Neb., for six years, and came to Sabetha, Kans., in 1903. He has practiced successfully in this city, and been connected with the staff of the Sabetha Hospital for the past thirteen years, with the exception of three years at Hanover, Kans., 1900 to 1912. Dr. Carlyle pursued a post graduate course at the Chicago Post Graduate School in 1903.

Dr. Carlyle was married December 28, 1897, at University Place, Neb., to Ruth Ingram, a native of Falls City, Neb., and daughter of Frederick W. Ingram, a pioneer citizen of Nebraska City, Neb., who was a freighter in the early days of the settlement of the West and transported freight overland from Nebraska City to Denver, Colo., in the early fifties, and became quite wealthy. Mr. Ingram is now past seventy-eight years of age, but is actually homesteading a claim in Wyoming, despite the fact that he is well-to-do, and has three sons who are rich enough to care for their father. However, he loves the wild, free life of the open, and is happier on his lonely homestead than he could be elsewhere. Mr. Ingram, in the old days, was owner of a Missouri river steamer in partnership with his brother. Mrs. Dr. Carlyle is a graduate of the school of music at Wesleyan University, and is the mother of one child, namely: Arthur Ingram Carlyle, born September 28, 1900, student in Sabetha High School.

Dr. Carlyle is a member of the County, State and American Medical Associations and has served two years as county health officer. He and Mrs. Carlyle are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a Progressive in politics, and is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Knights and Ladies of Security, and the Brotherhood of American Yeomen.

**Edgar M. Newman**, successful grocery merchant, Sabetha, Kans., was born on a farm in Rock Creek township, Nemaha county, March 30, 1870. The Newman homestead is now located in what is known as Berwick township, formerly a part of Rock Creek township. Mr. Newman is a son of Alexander and Augusta (Bestwick) Newman, and is the sixth born of a family of eight children. His twin brother, Edward, is employed in the Newman grocery.

Alexander Newman was born on a farm in Buchanan county, Missouri, November 11, 1840, and was a son of John and Susanna Newman, the former of whom was also a native of Missouri, and a direct descendant of Cardinal Newman, famed in English history. John Newman was a son of Alexander (born February 26, 1796) and Delilah (born March 27, 1797, and died May 29, 1868). John Newman, grandfather of Edgar Newman, migrated to Nemaha county in 1868, and settled in Rock Creek township. He drove from Buchanan county, by means of oxen which he used to break up the virgin prairie soil of his land. He erected a log cabin built of native timber and farmed his land until his death. His son, Alex, was practically reared to young manhood on the pioneer farm in Nemaha county, and upon the outbreak of the great rebellion, he endeavored to enlist in the Union service, but was rejected, because of defective eyesight. He cultivated the family estate until his retirement to a home in Sabetha in the late seventies or early eighties. He died in Sabetha, March 20, 1909. Alexander Newman and Augusta Bestwick were married June 22, 1861, in the Moorehead stone

house in Rock Creek township. Mrs. Augusta Newman was born in Clinton county, Pennsylvania, October 10, 1846, and was a daughter of William and Mary Bestwick, early pioneer settlers of Nemaha county, Kansas. The Bestwicks were of English descent. Alexander and Augusta Newman were the parents of the following children: Thomas J., of Albuquerque, N. M.; William S., deceased; Edgar and Edward, twins; Vina, librarian of the Sabetha city library; Mary, deceased; Linda, bookkeeper for T. J. Pace, proprietor of the city ice plant; Charles W., a switchman at Omaha, Neb., in the employ of the Union Pacific railroad.

Edgar M. Newman attended the district schools and the Sabetha city schools in his boyhood days. He began his business career by clerking in a local grocery store until 1904. He then embarked in business for himself, and has gradually built up an extensive business, maintaining at the present time one of the most complete grocery establishments in this section of the State, and carrying a stock of goods exceeding in value \$8,000. Besides his grocery business, he owns property in Sabetha, and a business lot on the Main street of Sabetha.

Mr. Newman was married, in 1909, to Vera Brumbaugh, born in Illinois, August 31, 1885. Mr. Newman is an independent in his political views, and votes according to the dictates of his conscience and own judgment. He is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, and stands high in business circles in his home city.

**Richard Bottiger.**—When Richard Bottiger left his old home in Pennsylvania thirty-two years ago, he was imbued with the idea that Kansas offered better opportunities for gaining a livelihood and amassing a competence than that afforded in his old home State. As the years passed, this idea became a reality. Mr. Bottiger made a good living from the start, and rose from the status of a comparatively poor man to become a well-to-do citizen. At this day, when he and his faithful helpmeet who has shared his early struggles to get ahead in the world, have every comfort and luxury that money can buy, they look back over the years of hard and unremitting labor on the Kansas plains, take a just pride in their belongings and their beautiful modern home, and feel grateful that they were permitted to take a part in the upbuilding of a great county and State, in the capacity of humble tillers of the soil.

Richard Bottiger was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, in the town of Sunberry, August 15, 1852, and is a son of Isaac and Caroline (Kepler) Bottiger, who were the parents of fourteen children, of whom Richard is the second in age and birth, and twelve are living. Isaac Bottiger was born in Pennsylvania in 1827, and died in 1881. He was a son of Daniel and Katharine Bottiger, the former of whom was a stone mason, and son of a German emigrant who made a settlement in Pennsylvania. It will thus be seen that Mr. Bottiger comes of the sturdy Pennsylvania German stock, whose industry and proverbial honesty have become noted, the country over. The mother of Richard Bottiger was born in Dalton county, Pennsylvania, a daughter of Abraham Kepler,

a farmer who was a native of Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania. She died in 1914 at the age of eighty-one years.

Richard Bottiger was reared on the parental farm, and when he became able to do a man's work, at the age of twelve years, in the fields, did farm labor for the neighboring farmers at a wage of \$3 per month, eventually receiving \$13 per month, as he became older and more competent. He rented land in his home county, but the returns seemed so slow and opportunities for advancement looked so meager that he decided to come to the newer country of Kansas. Accordingly, June 8, 1883, he migrated to Nemaha county and bought 160 acres of land in Rock Creek township on a time contract at a cost of \$22 an acre. In 1884 he brought his family to the new home and prosperity became his from the start. He tilled his acreage continually with excellent results until his retirement to a home in Sabetha in 1904. In six years' time he was enabled to pay for his first farm, and then added another quarter section to his possessions. In addition to his land holdings, he is a stockholder and director of the Citizens State Bank of Sabetha.

Mr. Bottiger was married in 1873 to Caroline Arbgast, born in Snyder county, Pennsylvania, January 6, 1854, a daughter of Jacob and Mary (Lahr) Arbgast, natives of Pennsylvania. Three children have blessed this happy marriage, namely: Ida, wife of Clayton Lewis, farmer of Rock Creek township; Laura, wife of Ira West, farmer of Rock Creek township; Flossie, wife of Dr. Ralph Welch, practicing dentist of Sabetha.

Mr. Bottiger is a Republican in politics, and served as treasurer of Rock Creek township for five years. He was mayor of Sabetha for two terms, 1910-1913, inclusive, and during his term of office, the water works system was installed, and the electric light plant was enlarged and modernized. He is a member and trustee of the Sabetha Methodist Episcopal Church.

**Thomas S. Anderson** has lived in Kansas for the past forty-five years, and is one of the real "old timers" of the State. His first home in Nemaha county was a one-room frame house, and the only shelter he had for his live stock was a straw barn. Mr. Anderson has witnessed a great State in the making, and has assisted materially in the development of one of the richest and best counties of the commonwealth; he has reared a fine family of children, who have taken their places in the world and have families of their own. His four score and two years still sit lightly on his shoulders, and this grand old patriarch is yet a man among men, despite his great age.

Thomas S. Anderson, of Gilman township, was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, July 3, 1834, and is a son of George S. and Sarah (Smith) Anderson, the former of whom was born in Ohio, November 11, 1811. George S. Anderson was a farmer during his whole life. He married Sarah Smith in 1833, and reared a family of twelve children, as follows: Thomas S., subject of this review; William W., a farmer of Guthrie,





Iowa; Humphrey, deceased; Mrs. Martha E. Jones, deceased; Mrs. Mary J. Henderson, deceased; George W., retired farmer, Seneca, Kans.; Mrs. Hannah Bethel, deceased; Mrs. Marguerite Carpenter, Carwi, Kans.; Mrs. Maude Dewhurst, California; John, deceased; Orlando, farming in Ohio; Mrs. Etta Bethel, deceased. Mrs. Sarah Smith Anderson, mother of the foregoing children, was born in England in 1816 and died in 1869 in Ohio. She came to America with her parents in 1818. Her father was a stone mason and was employed in the building of the White House at Washington, D. C. Twelve years after coming to this country (1830) he removed to Ohio and engaged in farming. He had a farm of 160 acres and was a pioneer in the fruit industry, maintaining a dry house for the purpose of preserving his surplus crops of peaches and apples.

Thomas S. Anderson received a district school education, pursued an academic course for one year, studied in a select school, worked on his father's farm until he attained his majority, and then began teaching. He taught in one district school five years successively and taught for ten years in all. His first farm consisted of fifty-six acres in Athens county, Ohio, which he cultivated for five years, and then sold it. He went from Athens to Hocking county, Ohio, and bought 165 acres of unimproved land, upon which he built a house made of hewn logs cut from the timber on his own tract. He also built a log barn, and for eight years devoted his attention to the raising of tobacco and corn. In 1869 he disposed of his holdings in Hocking county, Ohio, and migrated to Nemaha county, Kansas, where he purchased 160 acres of unimproved land. He at once built a one room house and a straw barn, which served as his home until he could build an addition, 14x18 feet, to his home. His house was burned, with all of its contents, in 1883, for which he received insurance to the amount of \$900. He then erected a ten room residence on the site of the old home, which still serves as his residence. Mr. Anderson is not a stockman and sells all of the grain grown on his place. He is a successful bee culturist.

He was married in June, 1862, to Anna Eliza Martin, daughter of Jacob and Jane (Lefevre) Martin, who bore him nine children, as follows: John W. and Elsie, deceased; William T., a traveling salesman in Oklahoma; Sherman M., farmer, Nemaha county; Mrs. Sylvia Shrimp, Nemaha county; Mrs. Dora B. Marshall, Norton, Kans.; Benedict and Jacob S., farmers in Nemaha county. The mother of these children died in 1879. Mr. Anderson was married the second time to Harriet Maxwell on June 22, 1882, at Huntington, Ohio, and she has borne him a son, namely: Frank M. Anderson, a farmer living in Nemaha county. Mrs. Harriet (Maxwell) Anderson was born July 4, 1843, in northern Ohio, and is a daughter of Jacob and Permelia (Snively) Maxwell. Her father, Jacob, was born in Carroll county, Ohio, in 1810, and was a farmer all of his life in his native state. Permelia Maxwell was born in Carroll county, Ohio, in 1823, was married to Mr. Maxwell

in 1841, and was the mother of nine children, as follows: Mrs. Mary H. Anderson; Mrs. Rebecca Norris, deceased; Mrs. Samantha Bethel, Vinton county, Ohio; Robert J., deceased; Levy M., Gloucester, Ohio; William H., Gloucester, Ohio; Malan M. and John E., living in Ohio; Francis M., deceased.

Mr. Anderson is a Democrat, who votes independently in local and county affairs. He has been a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons for many years. Mrs. Anderson is a member of the Methodist Church.

**Dr. Samuel Murdock**, Sabetha, Kans., was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, August 6, 1841, and is a son of Ezekiel P. (born March 10, 1809, died February 11, 1907), and Rachel (Taylor) Murdock, (born January 29, 1814, died August 22, 1885). Ezekiel Murdock was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, and was a son of Ephraim Murdock, a native of Scotland. Ezekiel P. Murdock and Rachel Taylor were married in Dearborn county, Indiana, January 29, 1835, and this union was blessed with children, as follows: David L., born in Butler county, Ohio, and died at Kansas City, Mo., August 27, 1903; Mary Ann, born in Dearborn county, Indiana, in 1838, died March 11, 1903; Samuel and Elizabeth, (twins), of whom Elizabeth died February 16, 1883; Jacob T., born January 11, 1844, became a lawyer, and died at Streator, Ill., December 23, 1912; Ezekiel P., born December 15, 1845, and became a physician; Nancy Jane, born November 24, 1847; George L., born June 20, 1851, died September 15, 1886. There were three lawyers in this family, of whom Ezekiel P. Murdock, of Chicago, Ill., was first a lawyer, and then became a physician, and is widely known as a scientist, writer and skilled physician, located in Chicago for the past forty years. The mother of these children was born in Knoxville, Tenn. David L. and J. T. were also lawyers. D. L. was judge on the bench of San Diego, Cal., but died in Kansas City, Mo.

Ezekiel P. Murdock, father of Dr. Murdock, was admitted to the practice of law in Cincinnati, Ohio, and first practiced his profession in Dearborn county, Indiana, where he lived until 1854, and then located at Hennepin, Putnam county, Illinois. In 1859, he located in Lewis county, Missouri, and there followed farming. After his wife's death, he removed to Streator, Ill., where his demise occurred.

Dr. Samuel Murdock was educated in the public schools, and holds a diploma as Master of Arts from Chaddock College, Quincy, Ill., in 1870. In 1876, he graduated from the Physicians and Surgeons College at Keokuk, Iowa. In the meantime, he had completed a commercial course at Bryant and Stratton's Business College in Quincy, Ill., and practically made his own way through college from the time he was seventeen years old. Dr. Murdock is proud of the fact that his professional education was secured mainly through his own efforts, without any outside aid.

He enlisted in Company I, Forty-seventh Illinois infantry, in 1861, and served for two years in the Union army, was wounded in the left



shoulder at Corinth, Miss., and received his honorable discharge from the service. He fought in the following great battles: Farmington, Miss.; the skirmish lines at Shiloh and Corinth. During the period in which he was attaining his professional education, he taught school when not attending school, and practiced at Kahoka, Mo., for a number of years, and served eight years as pension surgeon and medical examiner at Kahoka. Dr. Murdock located at Oneida, Kans., in 1883, and practiced in that city continuously until November of 1905, when he came to Sabetha, Kans.

Dr. Murdock was married at Monticello, Mo., January 1, 1871, to Martha H. Green, while he was teaching at the Monticello Seminary, Monticello. Mrs. Murdock was born in Switzerland county, Indiana., January 29, 1839, and died November 4, 1905. She was a daughter of Moses Green, who was a settler in Lewis county, Missouri, and became a prominent citizen of that county. Mrs. Murdock, mother of Dr. Murdock, was also a niece of Gen. Zachary Taylor. Three children blessed this union of Samuel and Martha Murdock, namely: Amy, died at Chad-dock, December 4, 1879; Oscar, died in infancy; Dr. Samuel Murdock, Jr., Sabetha, Kans., a review of whose life career is given in this volume.

Dr. Murdock is a member of the County, State and American Medical Associations, and was one of the organizers of the Nemaha County Medical Society. He is a Republican in politics, and is a member of the Congregational church. Dr. Murdock is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and is a thirty-second degree Mason. He is a member of the Grand Army Post at Sabetha, Kans., and in 1915, he delivered the memorial day address at Sabetha. He makes addresses occasionally, and is a forceful and interesting speaker. For some years, he was a contributor to the "Medical Courier," of St. Louis, Mo. Unlike many professional medical practitioners, he has made provisions for his declining years, and is one of the well-to-do citizens of the county. He still practices medicine and attends to surgical cases at the Sabetha Hospital, when his son is away on business, and can thread a surgical needle as accurately and quickly as a younger man. During his long years of practice, Dr. Murdock treated the sick and ailing whether poor or rich, the financial condition of his patients making no difference in his attentions and care. He made a practice of treating the families of poor widows free of charge. For all of his years, he is active as ever, shrewd, strong and mentally active, and during his life he has always been a total abstainer from alcoholic drinks, and attributes his excellent health and undiminished powers of body and mind to this fact in a great measure.

**Levi S. Stevens**, farmer and liveryman, Sabetha, Kans., was born in Lee county, Illinois, October 24, 1869. He is a son of Henry and Mary J. (Sivy) Stevens, who were the parents of five children, of whom Levi S. is the youngest. Henry Stevens was born in Pennsylvania in 1835, immigrated to Lee county, Illinois, in the late forties, and died there in 1895. His wife, Mary J. (Sivy) Stevens, was born in Richford, Ohio, in 1836, and is now living at Eskridge, Kans.

Mr. Stevens was reared on the farm in Lee county, and was educated in the district school and the public schools of Dixon, Ill. He followed farming in his native State until 1902, and then came West to Brown county, Kansas, and located on a farm two miles east of Sabetha. He cultivated his land until 1910, and then came to Sabetha, and purchased the Conrad livery barn. He is well-to-do, and owns a fine farm of 280 acres in Brown county. While living on his farm, he was a successful breeder of Percheron horses, and is known as an excellent judge of horse flesh. He makes a business of buying and selling live stock, and his knowledge of horses comes in good stead in this business.

He was married in 1894 to Miss Clara Piper, and this marriage has been blessed with the following children: Verna, born in Illinois, March 16, 1898; Lulu, born in Illinois, May 1900; Mildred, born in Brown county, Kansas, June, 1903. The mother of these children was born in Lee county, Illinois, 1872, a daughter of J. J. and Elizabeth (Shelley) Piper, natives of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Stevens is a Republican in politics, and is widely known as a horseman and successful citizen of Sabetha. Although he has been in Kansas but a few years as compared to the residence of an old settler, he has become thoroughly imbued with the Kansas spirit, and has made good in the State of his adoption.

**Will R. Anthony**, superintendent of public instruction of Nemaha county, is one of the ablest educators and school executives of northern Kansas, who was born to his profession, and is essentially self made and self educated. His experiences as an educator have been broad and varied enough to especially fit him for the exacting duties of his position at the head of the Nemaha county school system, and his diplomatic methods of handling the affairs of his office have been so successful that the schools of Nemaha county were never in better position than during his term as superintendent.

Prof. Anthony is a product of the Southland, and is descended from old American families on both paternal and maternal side. His forebears were Germans, who settled originally in the Carolinas, and whose descendants were among the pioneers of Tennessee and Kentucky. W. R. Anthony was born on a farm in Sumner county, Tennessee, August 12, 1862, and is a son of Robert D. and Bettie (Harrell) Anthony, natives of Kentucky and Tennessee, respectively. The old home of the Anthony family is situated on the border line of the two States, and Robert D., born in 1837, was a son of Henry S. Anthony, a native of Allen county, Kentucky, and a son of Joseph Anthony, born in North Carolina, and who came to Kentucky in 1792, when seventeen years of age. Joseph Anthony was one of the hardy pioneers who cleared away the wilderness and made a home under the most exacting conditions for his family. He reared a large family of children, namely: George, William, Joseph, Lee and Henry S., and five daughters, all of whom were reared to manhood and womanhood in Kentucky.



WILL R. ANTHONY.



Robert D. Anthony married Miss Harrell in her Tennessee home and then made a permanent residence across the State line in Kentucky, where he still resides. He is the father of four children, as follows: William R., the subject of this review; Henry W., Nashville, Tenn.; Robert A., a teacher in Portland, Tenn.; Callie, wife of Rev. W. E. Lyon, a Methodist minister, preaching in Texas; Bertha, wife of William Riggsley, and Joseph M., of Portland, Tenn. Mrs. Anthony was born in 1838, and died in September, 1913. Since her death the elder Anthony has been living with his children. A brother of Robert D. Anthony was killed in battle while fighting in behalf of the Confederacy during the Civil war, and a brother of Mrs. Anthony lost his life while in the service.

Will R. Anthony was educated in the public schools of his native State, and studied in a private academy. He began teaching at the age of sixteen years, and taught for five years in the neighborhood of his old home, which was followed by one year's teaching in Illinois. He then married and clerked for three years in a general store in his home neighborhood. Prof. Anthony came to Kansas in 1888 and taught for three years in the schools of Phillips county. He located in Marshall county in 1891, and taught nine years, beginning in the rural schools, and then taking charge of a consolidated graded school. For four years he had charge of the grammar department of the Irving, Kans., school, and spent his summer vacation in studying, so as to equip himself for a better position. He took charge of the Oneida, Kans., schools in 1903 and held this position three years, becoming superintendent of the Corning public schools in 1906, and held this place five years, or until his taking up the duties of superintendent of public instruction, to which office he was elected in November, 1910. He was re-elected in 1912 and again in 1914. For a number of years Mr. Anthony has been engaged as institute instructor in Nemaha, Cheyenne and other counties in Kansas.

Prof. Anthony was married November 29, 1884, to Miss Eva Parsons, of Illinois, a daughter of Nicholas Parsons, a native of New Jersey. The following children have been born of this marriage: Edith, wife of E. H. Pretz, Spokane, Wash.; Grace, a teacher in Nemaha county; Rolin, freshman in Seneca High School; Alvah Lee, aged five years.

While Mr. Anthony has been a life long Democrat in his political leanings, he is an avowed prohibitionist and a strong supporter of prohibition principles, who is not afraid to voice his convictions at every opportunity which presents itself. When seventeen years of age, he united with the Baptist church, and has always taken an active part in church and Sunday school work. Since coming to Kansas he has become affiliated with the Holiness Movement, and is very active in the religious work carried on in behalf of a higher spiritual experience.

**Dr. S. Murdock, Jr.**—Judging by the accomplishments and decided ability of Dr. S. Murdock, Jr., Sabetha, Kans., as related to his profession, the reviewer would unquestionably place him in the front rank of distinguished physicians and surgeons of the present day. He is a surgeon of considerable repute, and while yet a young man as years measure a man's age, he has advanced steadily to a high place in the profession of medicine and surgery—a place which has been won by diligent study, scientific research and constant endeavor to lift himself above the commonplace and mediocre. Dr. Murdock is the founder and builder of the Sabetha Hospital, a surgical institution which is widely and favorably known throughout northeast Kansas and the contiguous territory of Nebraska.

Dr. S. Murdock, Jr., was born at Kahoka, Mo., January 27, 1872, and is a son of Dr. Samuel Murdock, whose biography appears in this volume. Dr. Murdock received his first elementary schooling in the public schools of Kahoka, Mo., and he was eleven years old when the family removed from Kahoka to Oneida, Kans. He completed his primary education in the Oneida schools, and then studied the classics at Washburn College, Topeka, and Baker University at Baldwin, Kans. In due time, he began his medical studies at Rush Medical College, Chicago, and graduated from the Kansas City Medical College, at Kansas City, Mo., in 1893. He began the practice of medicine at Oneida, Kans., and remained there until 1903, when he located in Sabetha, and established the Sabetha Hospital. The hospital was first established in a large residence, but the demands upon the facilities of the building and the doctor's surgical skill became so great that it became necessary to erect a larger building, which was completed in 1911—a magnificent structure which is the last word in modernity and equipped with the latest appliances in medicine and surgery. The hospital buildings and equipment represent a total investment of over \$120,000.

Dr. Murdock was married, in 1894, to Miss Flora Fitschen, daughter of A. P. Fitschen, a merchant of Tipton, Mo. He is politically allied with the Progressive party, and he and Mrs. Murdock are members of the Congregational church. Dr. Murdock is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, is a Knight Templar, noble of the mystic shrine, and has taken thirty-two degrees of Masonry. He is a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and other minor fraternal societies.

Dr. Murdock, during the twenty-three years which he has devoted to his high and difficult calling, has never ceased to be a student. In preparation for devoting his time and talents exclusively to the practice of surgery, he visited the great capitals of Europe in 1893, and attended medical and surgical clinics, in 1910, at Berlin, Germany, Vienna, Austria, and Berne, Switzerland. He was engaged in his studies in Europe for a period of five months in final preparation for his work as a specialist in surgery. He is a member of the Nemaha county, Kansas State,

and the American Medical Associations and societies. Dr. Murdock is the active secretary of the Nemaha County Medical Society, and is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

**Samuel M. Hibbard, M. D.**, ex-county health officer, Sabetha, Kans., was born July 19, 1885, at Oregon, Mo., and is a son of George W. and Kathrine (Williams) Hibbard, who were the parents of nine children, of whom Samuel M. is the eighth born, and eight are living at the present time.

George W. Hibbard, the father, was born in Kirksville, Mo., January 13, 1841, and when fourteen years of age went to Keokuk, Iowa, where he remained until his enlistment (1862) in Company E, Sixth Iowa infantry, and saw much active service in the command of Gen. William T. Sherman, and took part in the famous "March to the Sea." He was three times wounded, once through the forearm and twice through the shoulder. He fought at the great battle of Shiloh, and was at the great siege of Vicksburg, after which he was engaged in the campaign which resulted in the capture of Atlanta and the "March to the Sea," in Sherman's victorious army. After the war, he located on a farm at Oregon, Mo., and for forty-four years tilled his acreage, finally retiring to a comfortable home in Oregon, Mo. George W. Hibbard was a son of John and Mary (Barnes) Hibbard, natives of Kentucky, and early settlers of Missouri. Records show that five generations of the Hibbards have been pioneers on the frontier of this country. They were among the first to venture into the forests of Kentucky, and a member of the family was captured by the Indians and kept a prisoner for three years. The mother of Dr. Hibbard was born at Kokomo, Ind., June 20, 1848, and died October 2, 1909. She was a daughter of Arthur and Mary (Smith) Williams, natives of Indiana.

Dr. Hibbard attended the public schools of Oregon, Mo., and worked on his father's farm until he was seventeen years old. When he was eighteen he entered medical college at St. Joseph, Mo., and graduated with the degree of Doctor of Medicine, in 1907. After practicing his profession in Missouri for some time, he came to Sabetha in 1908. During the eight years in which Dr. Hibbard has been located in Sabetha he has built up an excellent practice and accumulated property. He is constantly striving to improve his skill, and has taken post-graduate courses since locating in this city.

Dr. Hibbard was married in 1907 to Miss Orable Shambaugh, who was born December 23, 1886, at Oregon, Mo., and is a daughter of James and Jennie (Scott) Shambaugh.

Dr. and Mrs. Hibbard are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the doctor is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and has taken all degrees in Masonry up to and including the Scottish Rite degree. He served as master of Sabetha blue lodge in 1913. He is an independent in politics. In 1913, Dr. Hibbard was appointed county health officer of Nemaha county and filled this position from 1913 to 1914.

**Lyman Robie Jackson.**—There is certainly some distinction in being the oldest pioneer merchant and a citizen of a Kansas community and in having lived to see a thriving town grow from the first beginning of a hamlet on the Nemaha county prairies. Such distinction naturally and rightfully belongs to Lyman Robie Jackson, retired merchant and capitalist of Centralia, who has lived in this city for the past forty-seven years, and has witnessed the transformation of the unpeopled prairie lands of this county to a smiling and prosperous country of homes and villages.

Mr. Jackson was born in Orange county, Vermont, April 23, 1835, and is a son of Willard and Lorinda (Peake) Jackson, to whom six children were born, of whom Lyman Robie is the fourth in order of birth. Willard Jackson, his father, was born at Salem, N. H., April 13, 1805, and was descended from an old New England family. He removed from New Hampshire to Vermont, and was a farmer during his whole life. He died in 1874. His wife, and mother of Lyman R., was born in Orange county, Vermont, in 1809, and departed this life in 1880.

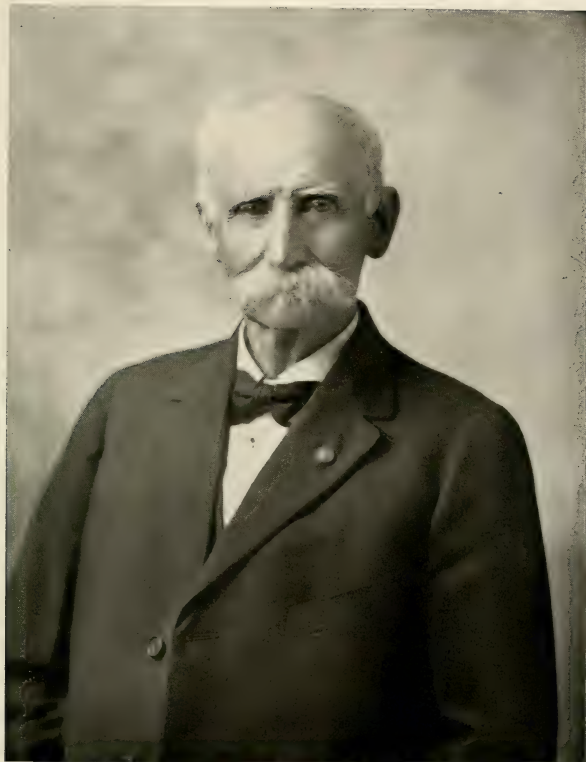
Lyman R. Jackson was reared on the home farm in Vermont, and received a good school and academic education at Barre, Vt. He learned the trade of tanner and the currier's trade, which he followed for seventeen years. When the call came for volunteers with which to quell the rebellion of the Southern States in 1861, he responded and enlisted in Company G, Ninth Vermont infantry, and served until the close of the Civil war. He saw much active service in North Carolina and the Southern States, and witnessed General Lee's surrender at Appomattox court house. Following his honorable discharge from the service, he located at Haverhill, N. H., and followed his trade until 1869. He then migrated to Kansas and established a general store in connection with the railroad depot at Centralia, Kans. He operated this store for a time and then erected a larger building in which to care for his large and increasing trade. He sold out in 1872, and bought a hardware store, which he sold in 1875. He then bought a tract of land in Home township and farmed for a few years. He became a land owner and owns land in Nemaha county at the present time.

Mr. Jackson was married in 1869 to Josephine Page, a descendant of an old American family, which traces its beginning back to the thirteenth century. Mrs. Jackson is a native of Haverhill, N. H. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, as follows Mrs. Lora Combs, Bakersfield, Cal.; Arthur, Denver, Colo. and three children, who are deceased.

Arthur Jackson is a prosperous merchant at Denver, Colo., and has a record as a veteran of the Spanish-American war. He was a member of the Twentieth Kansas regiment, which fought under Gen. Fred Funston. He is a graduate of the State University at Lawrence, and received the degree of A. B. from his alma mater.

Mr. Jackson has taken a very active and influential part in civic





LYMAN R. JACKSON.



affairs during his long residence at Centralia, and is one of the city's most respected aged residents. He is a shareholder of the Citizens State Bank of Centralia, and is a Republican, who has held many public offices within the gift of his fellow citizens. He has filled the office of mayor of Centralia on three different occasions, and during his administrations many public improvements were undertaken, one of which is indicative of his great public spirit and consisted in cutting down a large hill, which obstructed a view of the city from passing passenger trains. He became a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons at West Topsham, Vt., and was the actual founder of the Centralia lodge of Masons. He did the work of getting nine men together who were Masons, and took his party to Seneca and there organized themselves into the Centralia Masonic Lodge. He served as police judge of Centralia and has always been active in behalf of his home city. Mr. Jackson is a member and deacon of the Centralia Congregational Church and is a prominent member of the local Grand Army of the Republic Post.

**John P. Cummings**, capitalist, Sabetha, Kans., is a native of Massachusetts, and a descendant of a New England family, five generations of which have lived in the United States. He was born at Oxford, Worcester county, Massachusetts, May 19, 1851, and is a son of John and Minerva (Massey) Cummings, who were the parents of four children, as follows: Mrs. Ada Healey, deceased; John P., subject of this sketch; Ida, wife of George McLain, deceased; Elmer B., Roadhouse, Ill. John Cummings, the father, was born at Oxford, Mass., December 25, 1824, and became a stone mason and plasterer. He removed to Princeton, Ill., and followed his trade in that State for some years. His death occurred July 20, 1898. Mrs. Cummings, the mother, was born at Dudley, Mass., September 11, 1829, and is now living at Roadhouse, Ill.

John P. Cummings became a farmer in Illinois and lived in that State until 1882. He then went west to Denver, Colo., and was employed as shipper in the cattle industry until 1885, at which time he came to Sabetha, Kans., and engaged in the grain business in partnership with a Mr. Price. They owned a grain elevator and did a highly successful business, finally selling out the business and elevator in 1907. Mr. Cummings has invested his surplus earnings in land and now owns 266 acres of good farm lands in Brown and Johnson counties, Kansas, and is a stockholder in the Mutual Telephone Company.

Mr. Cummings was married in 1886 to Emily Viles, who was born August 6, 1861, at Newton, Iowa, and is a daughter of Alvah and Charlotte (Cottle) Viles. Alvah Viles was a native of Maine, who immigrated to Iowa and lived there until 1881, and then came to Kansas, locating near Manhattan on a farm, where he became a breeder of Poland China swine.

Mr. Cummings is a Progressive in politics and was elected mayor of Sabetha in 1901. He gave the city a good administration and Turner Hall went out of existence in the city during his term of office. He

stood for strict law enforcement, and his wishes in this regard were respected. From 1902 to 1905, he was a member of the city school board. The Cummings home is one of the finest in Sabetha, and was erected in 1912 by Mr. Cummings. It is a handsome structure of eight rooms, all modern, equipped with steam heat, hot and cold running water, electric vacuum cleaner and modern laundry equipment in the basement. It is such a home in which a housewife takes great delight, and is in keeping with the life success of Mr. Cummings.

**David Hennigh.**—The ranks of the grand army of veterans who fought under the starry banner in defense of the Union, during the great Civil war, are fast thinning, and only the strongest who went into the affray when very young, are surviving to this day. David Hennigh, Union veteran, and Kansas pioneer, is one of the last of the "Old Guard" who marched under the Stars and Stripes at the call of President Lincoln and who, after the war was over, came to Kansas and fought another hard battle for the redemption of the prairies in Nemaha county, and worked hard and faithfully for the amassing of a competence for his declining years and his posterity. He is one of Sabetha's "grand old men," and is highly respected and esteemed by his many friends and acquaintances.

David Hennigh was born at Center Hall, Center county, Pennsylvania, June 27, 1847, and is a son of David and Mary (Mingle) Hennigh, who were the parents of nine children of whom David was the second in order of birth. David Hennigh, the elder, was twice married, his first wife being Mary Ann Rishel, who was born February 2, 1814, in Center county, Pennsylvania, and who died October 13, 1843, leaving two sons and five daughters, of whom two are living. Of the second marriage, four sons and a daughter are living. David Hennigh, the elder, was born February 16, 1809, in Gregg township, Center county, Pennsylvania, and died December 11, 1891. He was a son of Adam, born January, 1757, a descendant of German ancestry and a soldier of the Revolution who fought in the American War of Independence. He farmed in Pennsylvania until his death in April, 1838. This Revolutionary patriot was three times married, his first wife being Anna Wierbaugh, (born July 16, 1776, and died August 2, 1794), drowned while fording a stream on horseback with an infant child in her arms. His third wife was Barbara Von Ada, born February 6, 1772, and died February 19, 1828. The name of "Hennigh" was originally derived from "Henney," which was the name by which the early ancestors of David Hennigh were known. The Henney Buggy Company was founded and carried on by members of this family. David Hennigh, the father of David, changed spelling of the name to "Hennigh," and all of his descendants now write their surname, according to the practice established by David the elder. The mother of the subject of this review (Mary Mingle) was born in Union county, Pennsylvania, February 20, 1820, and died March 27, 1869. Both parents were members of the Evangelical church.

David Hennigh, with whose career this review is directly concerned, was reared on his father's farm, and received his schooling in an old log school house built by his father and a neighbor in order that their children might have adequate school facilities. His schooling was necessarily limited, and was intermittent at times. He remained on his father's farm until his enlistment in the Union army at Potter's Mill, Penn., in Company E, First Battalion of Pennsylvania, volunteer infantry, and he saw service in southern Pennsylvania and Maryland, in an emergency call to repel a rebel invasion at the time of the burning of Chambersburg, Pa. He was in service for four months and then received his discharge and remained at home until he became of age. He then started out to seek his fortune in the West and journeyed to Henry county, Illinois, where he worked out as a hired farm hand in the employ of his cousin, who paid him \$25 per month. In December of 1869, he made a trip to Severance, Kans., and a short time later, he walked across the intervening country to Muscotah, Kans., a distance of fifteen miles. He then started to walk from Muscotah to Atchison, intending to board a train at Effingham, but, upon being informed by Col. Benton of Effingham that the train would not be along for three hours, he finished his trip afoot, and then went back east from Atchison to Illinois. He remained in Illinois until February, 1870, and on March 2, 1870, he arrived again in Atchison county, Kansas, and bought seventy-five acres of land near Farmington in Center township. He learned what hard times were in those days, and was kept busy in keeping the wolf from the door. During the grasshopper visitation of 1874 and 1875, he traded poultry for seed corn, and would make the trips to Atchison where he did his trading. In 1880, Mr. Hennigh came to Nemaha county and bought a farm three miles west and one mile south of Sabetha in section 17 of Rock Creek township. His first purchase of land was a barren tract of prairie with not a stick or shrub on the entire quarter section. His first building was a granary 14x16 feet in extent which served as his home during the first summer of his residence in Nemaha county, while erecting his residence. From this small beginning, he created one of the finest improved farms in the county, and has increased his land holdings to 589 acres of excellent land. For many years, Mr. Hennigh was a breeder of Shorthorn cattle of the pure bred type, and he was very successful in this venture, becoming widely known as a pioneer breeder of fine stock in Kansas and the West. He made many exhibits of his fine stock, and made private sales to parties in all sections of the western country, which required that he and his son make shipments of cattle once a week. Mr. Hennigh retired from active farm life in 1909 and erected a beautiful, modern home of ten rooms in Sabetha, which is one of the best built houses in this section of the State. Mr. Hennigh gave each child \$1,000, or its equivalent when each attained maturity.

It is worthy of note that, in 1900, Mr. Hennigh bought a ranch in Edwards county, Kansas, and placed his son, Reuben, in charge of it,

stocking the ranch with Hereford cattle which they would ship to Nemaha county for breeding. Reuben got his start on this ranch, which Mr. Hennigh later sold, and Reuben moved to Grant county, Kansas, where he owns eight quarter sections.

Mr. Hennigh was married in February, 1867, to Mary Breon, who was born October 10, 1846, in Gregg township, Center county, Pennsylvania, and is a daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Auman) Breon, natives of Pennsylvania. Twelve children have blessed this union, as follows: Alfred F., Siloam Springs, Ark.; Mrs. Savilla Close, deceased, left two children, Alfred and Leroy, Alfred on part of home place, and Leroy is deceased; Charles, killed by being run over by a flat car on the Central Branch railroad at Farmington, Kans.; Reuben, rancher and stockman, Grant county, Kansas; Mrs. Ella Bestwick, Brown county, Kansas; Herbert D., farmer in Capioma township; Roy, grocery merchant, Sabetha; Elmar, Sabetha; Earl, farming the home place; Harry, Parsons, Kans.; Mrs. Myrtle Bocker, Nemaha county, Kansas, mother of three children, Harry, Velma, Lila.

Mr. and Mrs. Hennigh have twenty-nine grandchildren, as follows: Alfred F. has seven children: Leon, Lottie, Hazel, Mary, Hester, Florence and Alfred. Reuben has five children: David and Lawrence, twins; Elmore, Emmett and De Loss. Ella Bestwick has three children: Ione, Helen, Vera. Herbert D. has one child, Nina Lucina. Roy has four children: Daphne, Agnes, Violet, Berna May. Harry has two children: Merle and Helen.

The Republican party has always had the allegiance of Mr. Hennigh, and he served as a member of the school board of his township for twelve years. It can be said of him that he was always in favor of the best teaching facilities for the children of his district, regardless of the expense, and believes that a good education is essential to the well being of the present day. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which denomination he is also a member of the official board, and is a liberal contributor to the cause of religion. He is affiliated with the Sabetha Grand Army post, which is his only fraternal society. Few men can look backward over the long vista of years which have lapsed since he began his successful career, and be better contented with what he has accomplished in behalf of him and his than David Hennigh.

**John F. Lukert**, county engineer, Sabetha, Kans., was born in Wurttemberg, Germany, May 27, 1860, and is a son of Frederick and Dora (Miller) Lukert, who were the parents of seven children, of whom John F. is the eldest. Frederick Lukert, the father, was born in 1833, and immigrated to America in 1887 with his family and located in Walnut township, Brown county, Kansas. He became owner of a fine farm of 160 acres, which he tilled until his death in 1906. The mother of John F. Lukert was born in 1836, and died in 1909. Both parents were members of the Lutheran church.

John F. Lukert was reared at Hofen, Germany, educated in the Ger-

man schools, and left his native land on February 3, 1875. He came to this country and located at Sabetha, Kans. His first work was at farm labor for a monthly wage. This he followed until 1884. He then began farming on his own account one mile northwest of Sabetha, and was actively engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1895. He then came to the city and engaged in the buying and shipping of grain, becoming owner of the Sabetha and Price, Kans., grain elevators, but sold out in 1911. Mr. Lukert owns 320 acres of excellent farm land in Brown county and, for several years, was a well known breeder of Shorthorn and Hereford cattle.

Mr. Lukert was married in 1886 to Elizabeth Trees, born June 11, 1863, in Ohio, a daughter of Andrew J. Trees, concerning whom, see the Trees biography in this volume. Three children have been born to this marriage, namely: Harry and Bland, farming in Brown county; Cordia, a student in the Baptist College, (Ottawa University), Ottawa, Kans.

Mr. Lukert is one of the leaders of the Democratic party in Nemaha county, and has always been interested in political matters. He was appointed county engineer of Nemaha county in 1914, and is performing the duties of his office to the satisfaction of the people of the county. He is a member of the Baptist church, and is fraternally affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen of Hiawatha, Kans.

**John McCoy.**—We are living in the age of specialization, which is not exclusively confined to commercial life or to the learned professions, but has become a recognized and valued adjunct to the science of agriculture in its broadest development. The tiller of the soil who specializes in any one department of this most important vocation is making a name and reputation for himself and conferring a distinct benefit upon his fellow workers. If he be a breeder of thoroughbred live stock he is increasing and enhancing the profits to be obtained from this very important branch of farming, and is benefiting the live stock producers of the country by placing at their disposal the best products of his skill. In the neighborhood of Sabetha, Kans., are several well known and successful breeders, among whom is John McCoy, who, for over forty years, has been producing high grade Shorthorn cattle, which have become famous throughout the country, and have assisted Mr. McCoy in amassing a comfortable fortune in Kansas.

The history of Mr. McCoy's career as a breeder is embodied in the following newspaper clipping, which appeared in the issue of several newspapers in March, 1915:

"The farmers of Kansas and Nebraska will have opportunity to get some excellent Shorthorns in the sale of John McCoy & Son, that will be held at Hiawatha, Kans., Tuesday, April 4, 1915. Nearly forty years ago John McCoy saw the need of improved beef cattle and he decided to get the best blood obtainable for that purpose. At this time the fine herd of J. G. Gowan, New Point, Mo., was in its prime and at its head

was the noted Loudon Duke VI, No. 10399, bought of William Warwick, of Kentucky, for \$3,000. This bull was not only a famous prize winner, but was the sire of many prize winners. A liberal purchase of this prize winning blood gave Mr. McCoy a foundation from which he soon bred a herd that was massive, beefy and attractive.

"Later, Mr. McCoy used bulls carrying Scotch blood, being sons of such noted sires as Imported Scottish Lord, No. 77761, Imported Thistle Top, No. 83876, Imported Ducal Crown, No. 97149, Imported Royal Pride, No. 149651, and Imported Collynie, No. 135022, the last being Pride of Collynie, No. 259588, still in service in the herd, assisted by 'Secret Good,' No. 367761.

"While good blood has always been sought in this herd, Mr. McCoy's first consideration has always been correct beef form. If his cattle do not come up to the standard they are not retained in the herd. This herd has done much to improve the cattle of a wide territory, and breeders and farmers in need of some good Shorthorns would do well to attend this sale."

In all of the many sales John McCoy has conducted, honesty and absolute fair dealing have been the inflexible rule. During the forty years of experience in breeding and disposing of Shorthorn cattle at both public and private sales, the prices obtained for his stock, while moderate for the individual stock, have reached an aggregate amount as great, if not greater, than any Western breeder has received. It is probable that John McCoy has made more honest profits from his breeding operations than any other individual breeder of this section, and he ranks as the oldest breeder in Kansas today. Mr. McCoy is a member of the American Shorthorn Breeders' Association, and has a library of eighty-six volumes of the American Shorthorn Herd Book in his possession.

John McCoy was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, April 1, 1841, and is a son of John and Margaret (Kirkpatrick) McCoy, who were the parents of six children, two of whom are deceased, and of whom John was the fourth in order of birth. The father died in Ireland on his farm at the age of seventy-eight years. The mother departed this life in Ireland at the age of ninety-two years. Both were members of the Episcopal church. John McCoy worked on his father's farm in Ireland and learned the carpenter's trade in his youth. In 1866, he left his native isle and immigrated to America, working at his trade in the city of Chicago for three years, and two years in Michigan. His health failed him eventually, and, despite the fact that he rose to the position of boss carpenter, in 1872 he decided to come West in the hope of regaining his health. He migrated to Kansas and settled on a farm in Brown county. This was the "Rock Spring Farm," located about three miles east of Sabetha, for which Mr. McCoy paid \$9.50 an acre, and which contained eighty acres.

There were no improvements on this place, but it had a valuable



feature in the way of a large, never-failing spring, whose waters gushed from the rocks where it had its source. Mr. McCoy improved his acreage, gradually added more land to his modest eighty acres, and engaged in the breeding of Shorthorn cattle. The products of his farm in the way of pure-bred Shorthorn cattle have had a wide sale in this section of the country, and he has exhibited them at various live stock shows and fairs with considerable success. Mr. McCoy has accumulated a total of 500 acres of land and has a fine modern residence of eleven rooms on his home farm, a cattle barn, 70x36 feet in extent, with excellent improvements on his other three farms. His home farm is located in section 4, Monall township, Brown county. Mr. McCoy is also a successful breeder of Poland China swine. His herd of Shorthorns includes an average of thirty breeding cows.

John McCoy was married in 1870 to Victorine C. Nowlen, born at Coonsville, N. Y., September 17, 1841, and who died August 23, 1915. Seven children were born of this union, four of whom are deceased. The three living children are: Jessie, at home with her father, born January 24, 1877, graduated from the Sabetha High School; Ira J., born March 4, 1879, located at Parkman, Wyo.; Edward, at present managing the home place, and widely known as a live stock breeder, born September 5, 1882.

Mr. McCoy removed to Sabetha in 1908, and here expects to make his future home, well satisfied with what he has accomplished during his forty-four years of residence in Kansas. Mr. McCoy is a Republican and has served as a member of the school board. He has been an officer of the bank at Morrill, Kans., and is connected with the fair association at Sabetha. He is a member of the Congregational Church.

**Andrew Williamson**, retired farmer, Sabetha, Kans., was born at Berr Hill, Ayershire, Scotland, May 24, 1847, and is a son of James and Mary (Cargo) Williamson, who were the parents of eleven children, four of whom are living. James Williamson was a shepherd on his native heath, and was born in 1800, and died in 1884. The mother of Andrew Williamson was born in 1803, and died in 1868.

Opportunities for acquiring an education were very limited in the particular case of Andrew Williamson in his native land, and he left home in 1868, shortly after his marriage in 1867, and came to America in search of fortune. He located in Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, and worked as a laborer in a small town at a wage of \$1.35 per day. He remained there until 1876, and then crossed the continent to San Francisco, where he was employed as teamster until 1879. He then came to Kansas and purchased 160 acres in section 30, Rock Creek township, Nemaha county, for which he paid \$17.50 an acre. He bought this partly improved tract in partnership with his brother-in-law, John Cardy, who died a short time later. Time, industry, energy and good management have brought prosperity to Andrew Williamson, and he is the owner of 320 acres of land, eighty acres of which are located in

Capioma township. When Mr. Williamson was actively in charge of the farm he kept only high grade Shorthorn cattle, Poland China and Duroc Jersey hogs. He removed to Sabetha in February, 1903.

Mr. Williamson was married in 1867 to Miss Nancy Cardy, who was born in Ireland in October of 1846, and was there married. She is a daughter of Archibald and Isabella Jamieson (McLaughlin) Cardy. Eight children have been born to Andrew Williamson and wife, as follows: Charles, dead; Elizabeth, her father's housekeeper; Mrs. Mary, wife of C. B. Benedict, Miami county, Kansas; John C., owns and farms land in section 29, Rock Creek township; Sarah, wife of Melvin Danford, Rock Creek township; Andrew, a salesman for The Starns Drug Company, Detroit, Mich.; Jeannette, wife of Paul Masseter, section 25, Rock Creek township; Ellen, wife of H. Lukert, Brown county, Kansas. The mother of the foregoing children died September 23, 1903.

Mr. Williamson and his family were all reared in the Presbyterian faith, which was the church of his parents. He is a Republican in politics and has served as a member of the school board of his township. He is a stockholder in the Mutual Telephone Company. There are two things for which this sturdy American of Scotch birth deserves credit, the first of which is the rearing of a large family of children who are all well-to-do and enterprising citizens of their respective localities; the other is, that he came to this county a poor man, has worked hard, saved his earnings, and accumulated a comfortable competence to support him and his during his declining years. His life has been an industrious and honest one which has met the approval of all of his friends and neighbors.

**John N. Funk**, retired pioneer farmer and Union veteran, of Gilman township, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, November 6, 1840, and is a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Hampshire) Funk, for whose biography see sketch of David Funk in this volume. When he was an infant six months old his parents moved to Putnam county, Ohio. John Funk received but two or three months of schooling each winter in his boyhood days and worked on his father's farm until he was twenty years old. He then rented part of the home farm and operated the same until his enlistment in the Union army in 1864. He became a member of the One Hundred and Fifty-first Ohio regiment, an organization of one hundred day men, and was honorably discharged at Camp Chase, Ohio, when his time of service expired. Upon his return home he moved to his farm of eighty acres in Putnam county, Ohio, improved it with good buildings and cultivated it until 1868, when he sold out and bought his father's farm of 140 acres in the same county. One year later he sold his farm and went to Moniteau county, Missouri, but after spending three weeks in viewing the country, he decided to go farther west to Nemaha county, Kansas, and visit his brother, David. In December of 1859, he bought eighty acres in Gilman township, and in January, 1870, he built a one room house, 14x20 feet. He also erected a typical



JOHN N. FUNK.



MRS. JOHN N. FUNK.



Kansas barn of poles and hay. In 1873 he bought eighty acres adjoining his first tract and erected a house thereon, building an additional four rooms to this residence in 1884. Previous to this, in 1881, Mr. Funk bought 200 acres in Gilman township and rented it out for pasture for seven years, later placing all of it in cultivation excepting thirty acres. He owns 332 acres at present, all of which is in cultivation excepting ninety acres, and ten acres of this amount is in orchard and twelve acres in timber.

In 1879, he built a frame barn, 24x40 feet, later adding two shed wings, 16x40 feet, on each side, and in 1886, he erected a granary, 28x36 feet. In past years Mr. Funk dealt heavily in live stock, but of late he has abandoned the live stock end of farming.

Mr. Funk was married in Ohio in 1860 to Magdeline Brannaman, daughter of Henry and Esther (Good) Brannaman. To this union ten children were born, as follows: Two died in infancy; Abram L., Havre, Mont.; Mrs. Elizabeth Schmick, Hiawatha, Kans.; Mrs. Lydia Sohn, deceased; James E. (see sketch); Sarah, died August 7, 1910; Mrs. Eva Graves, living on the home place; Fred W., farmer in Nemaha county; Roy, deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Funk have grandchildren, as follows: Mrs. Laura Huffman, daughter of Mrs. Elizabeth Schmick; Norman S., May L. and Nellie M., children of Mrs. Lydia Sohn; Omer M., son of James E. Funk; Clifford E. and Marguerite L., children of Fred Funk. Mrs. Funk was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, September 25, 1841, married at the age of nineteen and was her husband's faithful helpmate and mainstay during his rise to wealth and position, and was a good and kind mother to her children. She died July 31, 1910, and her remains lie buried in Oneida cemetery.

John N. Funk has grown up and aged with Kansas, and, like his adopted State, is still hale and hearty in the prime of manhood, although he has passed the biblical allotment of three score and ten years. When this grand old Kansas pioneer came to Nemaha county, there was hardly any settlements of houses in the vicinity of his present home, and it is a fact that he and his wife and Samuel Funk, wife and three children, lived in one room, 14x20 feet in dimension, from January 10 to May, 1870. This may seem odd and unbelievable to the present day generation, who are used to comfortable homes and every convenience, but it is a truthful statement of the manner in which the first comers to Kansas were of necessity forced to live on the plains forty and more years ago. Mr. Funk has witnessed many changes in the appearance of the country since that time and deserves considerable credit and honor for the useful part he has played in the creation of a great county and State.

**John Zug**, retired carpenter, farmer and capitalist of Sabetha, was born at Mogadore, Suffield township, Portage county, Ohio, August 2, 1846, and is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Crouse) Zug, who were the parents of four children, as follows: Mrs. Catharine Brumbaugh, deceased; Mrs. Mary Kurtz, Brimfield, Ohio; John, subject of this review; Lizzie,

living at Mogadore, Ohio. Jacob Zug, the father, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, January 13, 1821, and became a shoemaker, working at his trade for a period of fourteen years. In 1846, he immigrated to Ohio, and engaged in farming near the town of Mogadore in 1851. He lived on his farm until death called him September 11, 1913. He was a son of Andrew Zug, a son of Swiss parentage, and who married a Miss Mishler, and followed the trade of tanner. The mother of John Zug was born April 2, 1823, in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and was a daughter of William Crouse, who married a Miss Binkley. She died June 17, 1897.

John Zug was reared on the Ohio farm, attended the district schools, and learned the trade of carpenter. He worked at his trade in his native State until 1880, and then immigrated to Kansas, locating in section 14, Berwick township, Nemaha county. He invested his savings in 160 acres of land upon which he made extensive improvements, soon erecting a handsome two-story house, T-shaped, of seven rooms. He built a barn 42x70 feet—color scheme of the house was pure white in contrast to the deep red of the barns and other out buildings. Mr. Zug, being a skilled mechanic, erected all of his own buildings. A man equipped with a heritage of industry and right living such as his was bound to succeed, as nearly all Buckeye folks of Pennsylvania German ancestry are wont to do, and he became owner of 600 acres of well improved land, 240 acres of which he divided among his children and now owns 345 acres. In 1896, he had succeeded so well that he decided to retire to a home in Sabetha, and, accordingly, purchased a tract of seventeen acres just outside the city limits, where he built a large house and resided for twelve years. He sold this tract in 1908, and bought lots in the east part of the city, and erected a handsome seven room modern bungalow, where he now resides.

Mr. Zug was the active promoter and organizer of the Mutual Telephone Company of Sabetha, and built up this public convenience from a modest beginning in 1908, until it now has a total of 810 subscribers. He owns over one third of the stock of this thriving concern, and served as president and manager of the company for some years, and now fills the position of treasurer. Mr. Zug has, during the course of his long career, followed various occupations, and has succeeded at most of his undertakings. While living in Ohio, he was a butcher for a time and did business among the farmers of the neighborhood. It was his custom to take his craft tools out on his trips, and do the butchering for the farmers. After he came to Nemaha county, he followed this avocation, and was known among the farmers as a circuit butcher, turning many an honest dollar as a reward for his strength and skill with his tools of trade. His endowments in early life were good health and a strong body and a desire to make the best of his circumstances.

Mr. Zug was married, in 1868, to Catharine Bair, born October 17, 1848, in Stark county, Ohio, a daughter of John and Mary (Stiffler) Bair,

who were the parents of six children, five of whom are living, as follows: Mrs. Nancy Whetstone, Lake, Ohio; Mrs. Esther Moulton, a widow living in Sabetha, Kans.; Mrs. John Zug; Mrs. Amanda Heinbaugh, deceased; Henry, Akron, Ohio; Jacob, Suffield, Ohio. John Bair was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, April 22, 1819, and was a son of Adam and Barbara (Houtz) Bair, and died July 23, 1904. Mrs. Mary (Stiffler) Bair was born October 25, 1823, and died February 11, 1888.

Four children have been born to John and Catharine Zug, as follows: Charles, a carpenter at Ola, Ark.; Mrs. Mary VanDyke, living near Abiline, Kans.; Jacob, living on a farm four miles west of Sabetha; Mrs. Cora Davis, on a farm five miles north of Sabetha. Mr. and Mrs. Zug have twenty-seven grandchildren. Charles married Amanda Reisen, and has eleven children, as follows: Lorena, Reuben, Paul, Elmer, Elizabeth, Walter, Raymond, Hugh, Robert, Ruth, Edna. Mrs. Mary VanDyke has five children, as follows: Harry, Esther, Lawrence, Caroline, and Ruth. Jacob married Maude Dugger, and has five children, namely: Mildred, Margaret, Merlin, John, Morris. Mrs. Cora Davis has six children, as follows: Ethel, Clarence, Pearl, George, Dale and Doris, twins.

Mr. Zug is an independent in politics, and votes as his conscience dictates, and refuses to wear the party yoke of any boss or set of political bosses. He is a member of the Church of the Brethren or Dunkard sect, and is recognized as an enterprising and useful citizen by his many friends and acquaintances. He stands high in the community, in which he has taken such an active and influential part in its building up.

**Albert George Kemper**, prosperous dry goods merchant of Sabetha, Kans., was born at Lancaster, Wis., July 8, 1867, and is a son of George and Elizabeth (Womelsdorf) Kemper, who were the parents of a large family of children, seven of whom grew to maturity, and six are now living. George Kemper, the father, was born in Germany and became a farmer, immigrating to America when a young man, settled in Wisconsin and in 1883 removed to Nebraska.

George Kemper was born June 14, 1823, in Germany, and after his immigration to America, worked in a factory at Philadelphia, Pa. He moved from that city to Lancaster, Wis., and engaged in farming. In 1883 he migrated to Hamilton county, Nebraska, and followed agricultural pursuits until his death, February 5, 1898. He was a son of Henry Kemper, who came to this country with his family, and died in Wisconsin at the age of eighty-six years. Anna Elizabeth (Womelsdorf) Kemper was born February 29, 1824, at Westphalia, Germany, town of Berleburg. They were the parents of nine children, as follows: Caroline, widow of A. B. Frederick, living at Platteville, Wis.; Henry W. deceased; Mrs. Matilda Bald, Aurora, Neb.; Mrs. Louise Weingarten, Aurora, Neb.; Edward L., Aurora, Neb.; George B. and August F., twins, died at the age of eight years; Anna E., wife of Dr. C. P. Fall, Beatrice, Neb.; Albert George, the youngest of the family.

The subject of this review was reared on his father's farm, attend-

ed the district school and removed with his parents to Aurora, Neb., in 1883. He studied in the Aurora High School and when twenty-one years old he began clerking in a furniture store at Beatrice, Neb. One year later he began clerking in a dry goods store and rose to the position of manager. In 1899 he took charge of the dry goods department of a large store in the mining town of Cambria, Wyo., and held this position for a time. In 1902 he removed to Helena, Montana, and was employed in a dry goods store until 1910. He then came to Sabetha and engaged in partnership with S. G. Hazen. This partnership was dissolved in 1914, and Mr. Kemper has since been engaged in business on his own account. He carries a large and select stock of dry goods and ladies' ready-to-wear goods to the value of \$13,000, and maintains one of the classiest and best dry goods stores in northeastern Kansas.

Mr. Kemper was married at Blue Springs, Neb., October 16, 1899, to Minnie I. Buckingham. One child has blessed this union, namely, Inez M., born June 6, 1904. Mrs. Minnie I. Kemper was born February 4, 1872, at Montezuma, Iowa, and is a daughter of Albert and Kathrine (Cunningham) Buckingham, who were of English descent, first lived in Ohio after their marriage and then migrated west to Iowa in a very early day. They moved from Iowa to Nebraska, where Mrs. Kemper was reared and educated. She became teacher in the district schools near Blue Springs and was teaching at the time of her marriage to A. G. Kemper.

Mr. and Mrs. Kemper are active in the affairs of the Congregational church. Mr. Kemper is a Democrat in politics and has served as member of the city council of Helena, Mont., during his residence in that far western city. He was elected to the post of president of the Commercial Club of Sabetha in 1914. He was elected a member of the board of education in 1915 and takes a decided and keen interest in the cause of education. Mr. Kemper is ever on the alert to advance the interest of Sabetha and is one of the real Sabetha boosters who have done much to make the city enterprising and attractive during past years. He is affiliated with the Royal Highlanders, the Knights and Ladies of Security, Knights of the Maccabees, and the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

**John U. Lehmann.**—In point of years of residence in Nemaha county, John U. Lehmann is probably the oldest living pioneer settler of Washington township; he bears the added distinction of having lived nearly sixty years on the farm which his courageous mother homesteaded in 1857. John U. Lehmann has seen the prairies in all of their vast, unsettled loneliness; he broke up the prairie sod of the homestead when his nearest neighbor was miles away; he lived in this county when it required the most sturdy and brave homeseekers to withstand the loneliness and the privations necessary in the redemption of an unpeopled wilderness. His time of residence in Kansas dates from the era of the wild Indian to the gradual settling of the country and the





JOHN U. LEHMANN AND WIFE.



peopling of the fertile plains and the building of thriving towns wherein the rugged methods of living, which sufficed for the pioneers, have been supplanted by the luxuries of later day civilization. Although born under a foreign flag, John U. Lehmann shouldered a musket and marched away to Southern battlefields in defense of his adopted country. Few men can point to a better or more honorable record than this patriarch and pioneer.

John U. Lehmann, farmer and stockman of Washington township, was born at Berne, Switzerland, May 1, 1841, and is a son of John and Cathrine (Arm) Lehmann, who were the parents of twelve children, of whom John U. is the seventh in order of birth. John Lehmann, the father, was born in Switzerland in 1802. He worked in a powder mill for several years, and became owner of a tourist resort at Launge, Switzerland, which he traded for a farm, where he spent his last years, previous to his immigration to America in 1846. He first settled in Holmes county, Ohio, and moved from there to Andrew county, Missouri, where he died in 1856.

The widow and her younger children migrated to Nemaha county, Kansas, a year later, and Mrs. Lehmann preempted a quarter section of land in section 10, of Washington township. The family drove overland with oxen and horses from Andrew county, Missouri. The sons of the family felled trees found along the streams in Washington township and built a rude log cabin on the banks of Four Mile creek, which served as the family home for a number of years, until replaced by a more pretentious dwelling. The mother was born in Launge, Switzerland, in 1808, and died in Missouri in 1872, at the home of her son-in-law, William Schindler.

John U. Lehmann was sixteen years of age when his mother located in Kansas. He was strong and vigorous, his strength and health being due to the out door life which he led in the pioneering days in Missouri and Kansas. He had opportunity for little schooling in his youth, but was blessed with inherent intelligence, which enabled him to go ahead. In September, 1862, he enlisted at Seneca, Kans., in Company G, of the famous Thirteenth Kansas infantry, and saw much active service in the Indian Territory, Arkansas and Texas. He was wounded in the left eye by the bursting of a gun cap during the battle of Prairie Grove. He received his honorable discharge from the service at Little Rock, Ark., in 1865. After the close of the Civil war, he returned home and took charge of the family farm, which he purchased in 1867. During his tenure of the land, Mr. Lehmann has made many substantial improvements and has maintained the fertility of his acreage by good management and raising of live stock and has accumulated a total of 360 acres of good, valuable land. Mr. Lehmann is a breeder of Hampshire hogs.

However, all of Mr. Lehmann's life, exclusive of his war service, was not spent on the farm. During the great gold rush following hard upon the discovery of gold at Pike's Peak, Colo., he and five of his

brothers, Gottlieb, John, Samuel, Fred and Christ, loaded provisions on two wagons, hauled by three yoke of oxen, and set out across the country in 1860 to see if they could gather in a quantity of the elusive yellow metal. They set out on the long journey, May 2, but returned in October of the same year, after some months of work in the gold mines of the Rockies. They were well satisfied to return to Kansas.

Mr. Lehmann was married November 7, 1867, to Magdalena Funkhouser, and this marriage has been blessed with nine children, as follows: Charles J., born in 1868, and died in 1903; Mrs. Amanda Fisher, widow, living with her father; Mrs. Elizabeth Schneider, St. Joseph, Mo.; David, United States mail carrier at Bern, Kans.; Frederick William, California; Mrs. Theodosia Wittwer, wife of the Bern banker (see sketch); Gilbert F., on the home farm in Washington township; Edson, at home; Mae F., a graduate of the Bern High School. The mother of the foregoing children was born in Signaw, near Berne, Switzerland, September 20, 1846, and is a daughter of John U. and Barbara (Rodenbuler) Funkhauser, the former of whom was born in Switzerland in 1812, and immigrated to America with his wife and family of five children in 1846, and settled near Pettisville, Ohio. In 1865 he migrated to Richardson county, Nebraska, where he died in November, 1873. His wife, Barbara, was born in August, 1806, and died in 1874.

Mr. and Mrs. Lehmann are members of the Evangelical church, with which denomination all of his children are also affiliated. Mr. and Mrs. Lehmann are loyal to their church and contribute liberally of their means to its support. He is a member of the Sabetha Grand Army Post.

It is pleasant, indeed, for a man to attain to the great age of seventy-five or more years and be able to look backward over the long, eventful years of his pioneer life and be satisfied with what he has accomplished in the way of attaining a competence, rearing a fine family of children, and serene in the knowledge that he gave the best years of his life to help save his beloved adopted land. Mr. Lehmann often thinks of the old days when wild game was plentiful on the prairies and the Indians were numerous. The Indians frequently camped on the banks of Four Mile creek, near the Lehmann home, and he well remembers their hunting forays and knew some of the Indians well. Often he wishes that he could live over those earlier years and again hunt the wild turkey and prairie chicken. The frontier life seemed to weave a spell about the younger people which has never entirely disappeared. History will honor John U. Lehmann as being one of the real pioneers of this great county.

**William Thompson.**—The late William Thompson, of Sabetha, Kans., was known for his kindly deeds, his honesty and industry and his liberality in support of his church. His life was a long and useful one, and he was one of the hundreds of thousands of brave men who

risked their lives in defense of the Union on the Southern battlefields. Nearly thirty-five years of his life were spent in Kansas developing a fine farm, and it was his forethought in providing for the future that led him to undertake the task of making a home on the prairies of Nemaha county.

William Thompson was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, November 7, 1845. He was a son of Madison and Elizabeth (Thompson) Thompson, natives of the old Buckeye State. When he has but seventeen years of age William Thompson enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Twenty-second Ohio infantry, and served his country well and faithfully during the time of his service. He resided in Ohio until 1875 and then came to Nemaha county, where he purchased 160 acres of land in Rock Creek township. He made extensive improvements on this tract and built a large ten-room house for his abode. He became an extensive cattle and hog feeder and prospered during his residence in Kansas. He died May 25, 1904.

He was married December 24, 1870, to Eliza Cleary, born in Noble county, Ohio, June 4, 1845, a daughter of John and Ann (Dempsey) Cleary, natives of Ireland. John Cleary, her father, was born January 2, 1810, and became a carpenter, but took up farming in Noble county, Ohio, after his immigration to America. He was married at Cincinnati, Ohio, to Ann Dempsey, born November 4, 1817, and died 1879.

Four children were born of this marriage of William and Eliza Thompson, as follows: Harmon D., at home with his mother; Mrs. Ann Iola Franklin, on a farm five miles southwest of Sabetha; Joseph E., dead; Norwista Grace, at home.

Mrs. Thompson is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and is active in church and society work connected with this denomination.

**Henson J. Hazell**, prosperous stockman of Sabetha, Kans., and former member of the Board of County Commissioners of Nemaha county, has taken an active and influential part in the civic and political life of Nemaha county and has achieved a measure of success which compares most favorably with that of the best Kansas farmers. Mr. Hazell was born October 13, 1852, in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, and is a son of Josiah and Armon (Miller) Hazell, who were the parents of two children, namely: John, deceased, and Henson J., the subject of this biography.

Josiah Hazell was born in June, 1814, in Green county, Kentucky, and became a blacksmith and skilled machinist. He migrated to Illinois in 1840 and worked at his trade in Jo Daviess county until his death in 1854. His marriage with Armon Miller occurred in 1847. Mrs. Armon (Miller) Hazell was born in Green county, Kentucky, in 1829, and died January, 1886. She was a daughter of James and Mary (Bush) Miller, of Kentucky. After the death of Josiah Hazell, his widow married William McCarty in 1859. Mr. and Mrs. McCarty migrated to Kansas and settled in Nemaha county in 1873.

Henson J. Hazell was reared on his father's farm in Jo Daviess county and came to Kansas in 1873 with his mother and stepfather, who settled on a farm in Berwick township, Nemaha county. Soon after his arrival in this county, Mr. Hazell bought eighty acres of unimproved land in Berwick township, improved it and cultivated his acreage for fourteen years and then sold it. He later bought 230 acres of land adjoining Sabetha on the south, just outside of the city limits, which is his home at the present time. Mr. Hazell has always been an extensive feeder and shipper of cattle and handles from 300 to 400 head annually at a considerable profit. In addition to his farming interests he is a shareholder in the Citizens State Bank of Sabetha.

Mr. Hazell was married in December, 1875, to Miss Mary E. McCarty, who was born in Ohio, April 2, 1855, a daughter of George B. and Lizzie McCarty, who were natives of the Old Buckeye State. Four children have blessed this union, namely: Joseph, who is assisting his father cultivate the family farm; Mrs. Armon Brown, deceased; Robert, bookkeeper for an ice manufacturing concern at Kansas City, Mo.; Mrs. Helen Ash, Sabetha, Kans., whose husband is a stationary engineer, and who is the mother of two children, Henson Jr., and Warren Ash, born April 13, 1916.

Mr. Hazell is one of the "wheel horses" of the Democratic party in Nemaha county and has been active in the councils of his party for many years. He has filled the office of township trustee and was elected to the office of county commissioner in 1912, serving for three years. He is fraternally affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Hazell has always taken a deep and abiding interest in the welfare of his home county and is a thorough and loyal Kansan who has made good in the State of his adoption.

**John C. Maxson, M. D., Ph. G.**, Corning, Kans., is one of the leaders of the profession in Nemaha county who has achieved a signal success in his difficult, useful and exacting calling. Dr. Maxson was born at Lima Center, Wis., January 14, 1867, and is a son of James S. and Amelia B. (Child) Maxson, who were the parents of six children, as follows: Mrs. Emma L. French, deceased; Julia B., deceased; Mrs. Mary A. Lamphear, wife of Dr. Emery Lamphear, Campbell, Cal.; Sarah L., Campbell, Cal.; Mr. Gertrude A. Reynolds, Campbell, Cal.; Dr. John C. Maxson, subject of this review.

James S. Maxson, father of Dr. Maxson, was born in Alleghany county, New York, October 9, 1823, and educated himself in the academies of his native State for the teaching profession, which he followed for many years in New York, Wisconsin and Kansas. After a residence of some years in Wisconsin, he came to Kansas and located at Emporia in 1874. Later he taught in the city schools of Hartford, Kans., and taught in various cities and towns of Kansas for several years until he retired to a home with his children at Kelly, Kans., and lived among



DR. J. C. MAXSON AND FAMILY.





them until his death in 1905. Mr. Maxson was a very industrious man, who kept himself employed during vacation time by plying his trade of painter. He was married in Wisconsin to Amelia B. Child, who was born in New York State in 1834, and died at Erie, Kans., in 1896. They were members of the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

John C. Maxson was educated in the schools of Parsons, Kans., and other towns in which his father's profession required that he reside.

After completing his public school studies he matriculated at the University Medical School of Kansas City, Mo., in 1889, and pursued a course of study covering four years in that institution. He graduated with the degree of M. D. in 1893. In the meantime he had taken up the study of pharmacy in the Kansas City College of Pharmacy and received his degree of graduate pharmacist in 1891. Dr. Maxson was thus well equipped to undertake the practice of his profession, which he began in Kansas City, Mo., remaining there until his removal to Goff, Kans., in 1894. He followed general practice in Goff until his removal to Corning in 1905. Since locating in Corning, Dr. Maxson has enjoyed a lucrative practice and has accumulated a competence for himself and family as a result of his extensive medical practice. He owns 240 acres of land in Colorado and has three business buildings in Corning.

Dr. Maxson was married in September, 1892, to Miss Addie B. Wetherby, and this marriage has been blessed with five children, as follows: Bernice, deceased; Harold, Mildred, Hilda and Alberta. Alberta is deceased. Mrs. Addie Maxson was born in Michigan, February 7, 1865, and is a daughter of James and Caroline S. (Gill) Wetherby, natives of New York. Her father was a cabinet maker, and is deceased. Her aged mother was born in 1839, and makes her home with Dr. Maxson.

Dr. Maxson is a Republican, and is affiliated fraternally with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a member of the county, State and American Medical societies, and is constantly striving to advance himself in his profession by means of wide reading and keeping abreast of the advance made in medical science.

**Elliott H. Marshall**, proprietor of the Sabetha greenhouses, is a native born Kansan who established his successful floral plant in 1898. Mr. Marshall was born November 6, 1872, on a farm in Berwick township, Nemaha county. He is a son of Hugh and Sarah (Deaver) Marshall, who were the parents of three children, as follows: Edgar, the eldest who died two weeks after the arrival of the Marshall family in Kansas; Elliott H., with whom this review is concerned; Mrs. Hattie Hohnbaum, Hiawatha, Kans.

Hugh Marshall, the father, was born in 1813 in Virginia, and died December 10, 1875. He first went from Virginia to Deavertown, Ohio, and worked at his trade of tanner until 1870, when he moved to Mis-

souri, and made a settlement in that State. He lived in Missouri for one year, and on September 1, 1871, migrated to Nemaha county, Kansas, and made settlement on a farm one and a half miles north of Sabetha. He tilled his eighty acre farm until his demise. The mother of Elliott H. Marshall was born in Ohio, December 11, 1833, and died June 21, 1909.

The subject of this review was three years of age when his parents made their home in Kansas. He was reared on the farm and, after attending the district school in his neighborhood, he finished his schooling at Sabetha, being required to walk two miles from his home to the town, and return home after school was dismissed. In 1894, his mother removed to Sabetha, and left her son in charge of the farm. He tilled the tract until 1898, at which time he came to Sabetha, and established his greenhouses. His first building was a glass structure 16x25 feet in dimensions, and he has continually enlarged his buildings because of the growing demands of his business, which increased from year to year under good management until the Marshall greenhouses now consist of three large structures, each seventy-five feet long. He also erected a residence on his tract of two and a half acres, which is located on Fourteenth street, just north of the St. Joe and Grand Island railway.

Mr. Marshall was married in 1894 to Gertrude E. Parker, who was born March 16, 1876, and is a daughter of Wickcliffe and Ellen (Davisson) Parker. (See sketch of C. L. Parker). Four children have blessed this marriage, as follows: Mrs. Leonie Ruse, living in Brown county, Kansas, and who graduated from the Sabetha High School in 1915; Golda, Verna, and Bernice, at home.

Mr. Marshall is inclined to be independent in his political views, and votes for such candidates as seem best suited to fill the duties of the office sought. He and Mrs. Marshall are members of the Methodist church, and Mr. Marshall is a member of the board of trustees of the Sabetha congregation.

**Dr. George R. Conrad.**—George R. Conrad, veterinary surgeon, Sadiet's, Kans., was born in Oldenburg, German, March 11, 1833, and is a son of George W. and Lurania (Rasson) Conrad, who were the parents of six children. George W. Conrad was born at Rochester, N. Y., was there reared to young manhood, moved to Jasper county, Iowa, and from there, came to Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1868. He settled on a farm in Capoma township and prospered, becoming owner of 240 acres of land. Mr. Conrad, Sr., is now located at Dover, Okla., and is aged seventy-five years. He was, at one time, a member of the Kansas legislature, having been elected representative from Nemaha county on the Republican ticket. Mrs. Conrad is residing in Sabetha. She was born in Boston, Mass., in 1843. Six children were born to George W. Conrad and wife, as follows: Mrs. Clara Robinson, Sabetha, Kans.; Mrs. Belle Hollister, wife of manager of the Tile Manufacturing Company of Sabetha; George R., subject of this review; Mrs. Eunice Masheter, Tryon, Okla.; Mrs.

Mille Deaver, Kansas City, Kans.; Dr. Burt Conrad, Sabetha, Kans.

George R. Conrad received his schooling in the district school of his neighborhood, in Capioma township, and remained on his father's farm until 1893. He then came to Sabetha and worked for two years with Dr. Kabe, a veterinary, after which he studied for two years at the Kansas City, Mo., Veterinary College, and graduated from this school in 1897. He immediately began the practice of his profession at Sabetha, and has built up an extensive practice among the live stock producers in a large territory ranging from Atchison to Marysville, Blue Rapids, and other points in northern Kansas. Dr. Conrad has succeeded in a professional and a material way, and owns 280 acres of good land south of Fairview in Brown county, Kansas.

He was married, in 1894, to Etta C. Carpenter, born in 1870, in Iowa, and a daughter of James and Mary A. (Gallagher) Carpenter. Her father was a locomotive engineer, and after migrating to Kansas, he operated a flouring mill near Woodlawn, his daughter also conducting a store and the postoffice at Woodlawn, Nemaha county. Four children have been born to Dr. and Mrs. Conrad, as follows: Paul, a student in Northwestern University at Lincoln, Neb.; Samuel, George and Marjorie, at home with their parents.

Dr. Conrad is a Republican in politics, and he and Mrs. Conrad are members of the Congregational church. He is fraternally affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Knights and Ladies of Security.

An incident in the early life of Dr. Conrad is well worth recording: "When George R. Conrad was about nine years of age, an Indian came along the road near the Conrad home, leading a pony. The red man wanted to buy a guinea fowl, and left the wild pony at the Conrad place. The pony was wild and untamed. George took the animal to a quiet place in the timber and fed him. The pony would fight at the least provocation and resented any attention, but George gradually tamed him, and fed him at night in the barn. Two weeks later, the Indian, who was the chief, 'Mothockquit,' of the Kickapoo tribe, returned for his pony, and the boy was heartbroken over the loss of the pony, which he had hoped to keep."

Dr. Conrad has specialized in his calling, and has become successful in the surgical operation called the crip-thorchid operation, usually performed on a horse.

**Henry Feldman**, successful real estate operator of Sabetha, Kans., was born in Richardson county, Nebraska, October 8, 1871, and is a son of Fred and Magdalene (Glärner) Feldman, who were the parents of five children, Henry being the third in order of birth. Fred Feldman was born in Berne, Switzerland, in 1840 and emigrated from the land of his nativity in 1868 and first settled in Pennsylvania, where he worked at his trade of carpenter. He lived for some years in Pittsburg and was there married and came west to Nebraska, locating on a farm in

Richardson county. He cultivated his farm until his untimely death, caused by a runaway team while he was putting up hay, in the summer of 1886. The mother of Henry Feldman was born at Glarus, Switzerland, in 1836, immigrated to America when thirty years of age, and died in 1912. Both parents are buried near the home place in Richardson county. They were members of the German Reformed church.

Henry Feldman was reared to young manhood on the Nebraska farm and attended the "Rattlesnake" district school in his boyhood days. At the age of twenty-two years he rented land from his mother and followed farming successfully until 1909. The following year he located in Sabetha, Kans., and engaged in the real estate business. While managing his farm in Nebraska, Mr. Feldman specialized in the breeding of heavy draft horses and for two years after his location in Sabetha he was a breeder of Polled Durham cattle. He was a large feeder and an extensive shipper of live stock, his shipments to the markets running from 200 to 500 head of hogs and cattle annually. His success in the real estate field has been marked. He is owner of 320 acres of land in Richardson county, Nebraska, the old homestead of the family. At the present time, Mr. Feldman is in partnership with J. L. Musgrove.

Mr. Feldman was married in 1887 to Verna Walker, who was born June 13, 1871, a daughter of A. W. and Amelia (Ackerman) Walker, natives of Canada and Wisconsin, respectively. A. W. Walker was an early settler of Missouri, where he lived for some years previous to locating on a farm near Salem, Neb.

Mr. and Mrs. Feldman are members of the Methodist church. Mr. Feldman is independent in his political views and refuses to wear the party yoke or vote at the dictates of political bosses. He does his own thinking along political lines and votes for such candidates as he thinks best fitted for the office sought.

**William H. Root**, owner of a fine farm of 260 acres in Rock Creek township, is a native Kansan and son of pioneer parents. He was born on a farm in Brown county, October 7, 1864, and is the second of six children born to Jacob and Elizabeth (Burtwell) Root.

Jacob Root, his father, was born in Darke county, Ohio, February 28, 1835, and migrated to Brown county, Kansas, in 1860. He farmed in Brown county until 1894 and then moved to Sabetha, Kans. His wife, Elizabeth, was born in 1842 in Iowa and died in 1869. After her death Jacob Root was twice married without issue. He is now making his home with William H. Root in Rock Creek township.

William H. Root began renting land when he was twenty-two years of age and in 1900 came to Nemaha county, Kansas, and bought his present home farm of 260 acres in section 4 of Rock Creek township. He was married in 1886 to Mary Shannon, who was born in Iowa in 1867, and died in 1912, leaving three children, as follows: Mrs. Essie Sires, living at Trenton, Mo., has a son, Virgil, aged five years; Frank and

Fred, at home with their father. Mr. Root was married the second time to Mrs. Jennie (De Long) Murray, a widow, born September 24, 1872, at Parallel, Riley county, Kansas, a daughter of William and Sarah Elizabeth (Watson) De Long. William De Long, her father, was born at Wheeling, W. Va., and was a veteran of the Civil war. He served in the Seventeenth regiment of Iowa volunteer infantry and was wounded while digging a trench. A comrade accidentally stuck a pitchfork in his right eye, causing partial blindness. He migrated to Kansas in an early day and made a settlement in Riley county. He lived in Riley county until 1874 and then removed to Troy, Kans., where he died in 1899. Mrs. Root's mother was born in Muscatine county, Iowa, in 1836, and is now living in Randolph county, Kansas. The first marriage of Jennie De Long was with John Murray in 1893. Mr. Murray was born in Virginia, December 5, 1872, and was a son of George and Elizabeth Murray. He came to Denton, Kans., with his parents when twelve years old. After the marriage of John and Jennie Murray they moved to Troy, Kans., where Mr. Murray died in 1901. Three children were born to the Murrays, as follows: Mrs. Alpha Lacefield, Brewster, Kans., who has a daughter, Virginia, born May 19, 1916; William L., depot helper at Sabetha, Kans.; Myrtle Evelyn, at home.

Mr. Root is a Republican in politics and is a member of the Dunkard church. He is a shareholder in the Sabetha Mutual Telephone Company, and is a member of the Farmers Union and the Farmers Shipping Association of Price, Kans.

**George W. Myers**, wealthy farmer of Rock Creek township, began life as a herder of cattle, and has worked his way upward to his present position of substance and well being through industry and good, financial management. Endowed with no possessions at the outset of his career but a strong body and a good mind, he has accomplished a great deal more than the average man. Mr. Myers is a pioneer settler of Nemaha county, and his advent into Kansas dates from the year 1867, when his father homesteaded a tract of land in Capioma township.

Daniel Myers, the father, was born in Canada in 1832, and drove from his Canadian home to Nemaha county with a team in 1867. He settled in Capioma township, but left the county in 1869, and settled in Arkansas City, Cowley county, Kansas, where he died of typhoid in 1873. His wife, Elizabeth Collins Myers, was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1823, and died March 16, 1899.

George W. Myers was born near Morrisburg, Canada, February 6, 1863, and is a son of Daniel and Eliza (Collins) Myers, who were the parents of a family of eight children. Upon the death of his father in 1874, George W. left home and herded town cattle on the range at Arkansas, with his brother, Daniel, for three years. He and his brother then came to Nemaha county, and herded cattle on the plains for two years. For one year, he broke up prairie land for incoming settlers, and then rented land on his own account for two years. In 1883, he bought forty

acres in Capioma township, but sold the same in 1887, and bought another eighty, which he later sold, and invested the proceeds in a quarter section. In 1905, he moved to his present location, and began developing and improving the farm, which was the nucleus of his present large holdings of 560 acres. Mr. Myers has one of the most complete agricultural plants in Kansas, upon which he has spared no pains nor expense to make perfect, and equip so that the farm work can be handled expeditiously and economically. He has a silo, cow shed, milk house, scales for weighing the farm products, and an excellent farm home. Mr. Myers specializes in Durham cattle.

Mr. Myers was married, in 1882, to Harriet E. Benedict, who was born in Henry county, Illinois, January 28, 1866, and is a daughter of Stephen and Ann (Bushnell) Benedict, natives of New York State. The Benedict family came to Nemaha county, Kansas, and made a settlement in Capioma township as early as 1868. Stephen Benedict was born in 1833, and died on his farm in 1897. His wife, Ann, was born in 1836, and died in 1890. Both were members of the Congregational church.

Stephen Benedict served throughout the Civil war as an enlisted man in an Illinois regiment, and was a member of the Sabetha Grand Army post. He was a fancier and breeder of fast driving horses, and produced the fastest pacing mare, ever bred in Nemaha county.

The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Myers: Mrs. Ida Beck, Abilene, Kans.; Mrs. Blanche Hennigh, Rock Creek township; Harrison, a farmer in Rock Creek township; Mrs. Ethel Hennigh, Rock Creek township; Mrs. Mildred Showman, living in the same locality; Glenn and Grace, at home; two children died in infancy.

The Republican party has the allegiance of Mr. Myers, and he has served in various minor offices in his township. He is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America, and ranks high in Masonic circles, being a member of the Mystic Shriners, and having taken all Masonic degrees, up to and including the thirty-second degree. He and Mrs. Myers are members of the Methodist church, and contribute of their means to the support of this denomination.

**Elmer E. Althouse.**—Four generations of the Althouse family have lived in Nemaha county, Kansas, and the family history begins with Conrad and Susanna Althouse, who were natives of Germany and Pennsylvania, respectively. Conrad Althouse was the grandfather of him whose name heads this review, and was born in Germany, September 23, 1795, immigrated to America, worked at his trade of carpenter and made a settlement in Nemaha county in 1857, just four years preceding his death in 1861. His wife Susanna was born at Salisbury, Penn., January 28, 1809, and died February 17, 1898.

Herman Althouse, a son of Conrad and Susanna (Workman) Althouse, was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, July 11, 1834, and accompanied his parents to Kansas in 1857. He pre-empted 160 acres of unbroken land on Cedar creek, in Rock Creek township, broke

up his land with oxen, built a one-room shack, and a grass-roofed shed for his live stock and later supplanted his primitive structures with better buildings when he got his land in good producing shape. The Althouse family came by steamer from Pittsburg down the Ohio river and up the Mississippi to St. Louis, Mo., thence via the Missouri river by steamboat to St. Joseph. During the border ruffian days Herman Althouse took an active part in some of the stirring scenes incidental to making Kansas a free State. He was married in 1859 to Susan Howard, born in Andrew county, Missouri, August 9, 1842, and a daughter of Abraham and Siatha Jane (Manes) Howard, natives of Tennessee. Herman and Susan Althouse are members of the Methodist church. When Herman Althouse came to Kansas to make a home for himself he had no money, passed through all the hardships incidental to the settlement of the county and had his share of them. He has reared a large family of eleven children—a record of which any adopted son of Kansas has good and just right to be proud.

Elmer E. Althouse was born on the home farm of the Althouse family, June 15, 1866, and has always lived with his parents and cared for them. He is tilling 160 acres, eighty acres of which is owned by his father. He is a Democrat in politics and is one of the enterprising younger farmers of the county. The other children of Herman and Susan Althouse are as follows: Francis M., a farmer of Rock Creek township; Mrs. Jennie Deskin, deceased; Mrs. Bettie Buckner, Morris county, Kansas; Mary, wife of Rev. T. M. Bell, Mound City, Kans.; Thomas, farming in Capioma township; Charles, Rock Creek township; Mrs. Nellie Felmlee, Sabetha, Kans.; Mrs. Maud Crawford, Sabetha, Kans.; George, a farmer of Rock Creek township, and Abraham H., living in Morris county, Kansas.

**Francis Walter Brown**, well-to-do farmer of Rock Creek township, is a native of Mercer county, Pennsylvania, and is a son of Orlando and Mary Ann (Luther) Brown, both of whom were born and reared in the East, the former in Pennsylvania and the latter in New York State. Orlando Brown was born September 25, 1835, and became a mechanic and farmer. He removed from his native State to Illinois, where he resided until 1868, and then came to Brown county, Kansas. A few years later he went to Nebraska and homesteaded a tract of land and finally located in Nemaha county in 1895. The elder Brown is now living in retirement at Sabetha. Mrs. Mary Ann Brown, mother of Franklin W., was born May 3, 1840, and died in this county September 6, 1901.

Franklin W. Brown was reared on a farm and was born May 23, 1857. He accompanied his parents from his native State to Illinois, thence to Brown county, Kansas, and from there to Nebraska. He purchased his home farm of 165 acres in section 25, Rock Creek township, in 1895 and has it well improved. His farm residence is a comfortable eight-room affair and he has erected a large barn forty by forty-eight



feet in dimensions. In 1916 he built a barn, garage and machine shed thirty-two by thirty-two feet. Mr. Brown keeps very fine horses on his place and his farm of 320 acres is one of the best and most productive in the Sabetha neighborhood.

Mr. Brown was married in 1886 to Lucy Bent and three children have been born of this marriage, as follows: Mrs. Elsie Kerr, living in Rock Creek township; Mrs. Elva Wilkins, Baileyville, Kans.; Elmer, farming the home place. Mrs. Lucy Brown was born on a farm in Wabash county, Indiana, March 11, 1851, is well educated, and prepared herself for the profession of teaching, which she followed in Indiana and also in the public schools of Nebraska for fifteen years prior to her marriage.

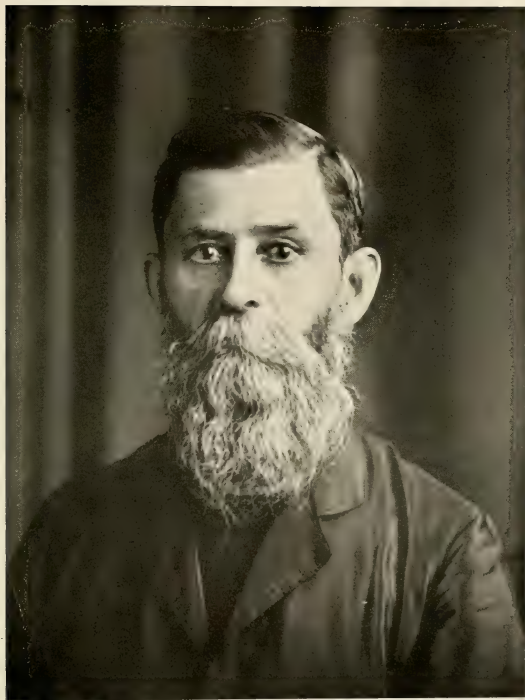
Mr. Brown is a Republican in politics and is one of the substantial and well respected citizens of Nemaha county. He and Mrs. Brown stand well in their community and are progressive in their views and aim to keep abreast of the times.

**Rev. Father Edwin Kassens, O. S. B.**—The life work of a priest is essentially one of self sacrificing devotion to the needs of his people and his church, and entails years of study and preparation for a career which has no earthly rewards commensurate with the tasks accomplished, excepting the satisfaction of having labored faithfully and well in behalf of Christianity and his fellow beings. Rev. Father Edwin Kassens, pastor of the Church of St. Bede's, Kelly, Kans, well merits the high esteem and love bestowed upon him by the members of his parish, and is devoted to his high calling.

Father Kassens was born in Vincennes, Ind., May 2, 1859, and is a son of Theo. and Elizabeth (Altoff) Kassens, who were the parents of nine children, as follows: Edwin, the subject of this review; Mrs. Mary Wilson, widow, residing at Vincennes, Ind.; William, engaged in milling at Vincennes, Ind.; Mrs. Anna Schasserre, wife of a merchant of St. Louis, Mo.; Mrs. Rose Marsh, living near Vincennes, Ind.; Harry, a merchant at Vincennes, Ind.; Fran, residing at St. Louis, Mo., and engaged in the mercantile business; Mrs. Kathrine Bilsky, living near Vincennes, Ind.; a child died in infancy. Theo. Kassens, the father, was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1824, and was a herder of sheep until he attained the age of twenty-five years, when he immigrated to America and found a position as clerk in a Vincennes store. Some time after locating in Vincennes, he moved to a farm in the vicinity of this old city, and resided thereon until his demise in 1893. The mother was born at Westphalia, Germany, in 1840, and immigrated to Vincennes, Ind., with her parents in 1848. She was reared on a farm near Vincennes, and is now living on the old home place of the Altoff family, near Vincennes.

Edwin Kassens was reared to young manhood on the parental farm and received his early education in the Catholic parochial schools of Vincennes. When nineteen years of age he came to Atchison, Kans., and entered St. Benedict's College for the purpose of preparing for the





REV. FR. EDWIN KASSENS, O. S. B.



priesthood of his church. He pursued a preparatory course, which was followed by collegiate and theological courses and was ordained for the priesthood in 1889. Thirteen years later (1902), Rev. Father Kassens came to Kelly, Kans., and took charge of the Kelly Catholic Church, known as St. Bede's parish. He practically established this church and has built up his congregation until it now numbers ninety families. Father Kassens held his first church services in an old school house, a house of worship which was a striking contrast to the magnificent church of St. Bede's, which has been erected as a result of his efforts and perfect devotion to duty. This beautiful structure is a monument to his energy, persistent efforts and wide influence over his members.

**John P. Gladfelter**, farmer of Rock Creek township, was born in Clinton county, Pennsylvania, May 27, 1850, and is a son of Jacob B. and Elizabeth (Passel) Gladfelter, who were the parents of four children, two of whom are living. Jacob Gladfelter was born at York, Pa., in 1809, and was descended from early Swiss emigrants who came to this country from their mountain land early in the eighteenth century or about 1700. Jacob Gladfelter made a settlement in Stephenson county, Illinois, in 1866, and died two years later. The mother of John P. Gladfelter was born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, in 1821, and died in 1892. She was the second wife of Jacob Gladfelter.

He of whom this review is written left his Pennsylvania home when fifteen years old, and worked as farm hand in Stephenson county, Illinois, for seven years. He worked in various localities, and followed farming pursuits until 1890, and then migrated to Rock Creek township, Nemaha county, where he bought eighty acres in section 27. Since moving to this farm, he has built a house and repaired his various outbuildings.

Mr. Gladfelter was married, in 1878, to Hannah Miller, who was born in Stephenson county, Illinois, July 16, 1854. She was educated in the public schools of Freeport, Ill., and taught school for two years and four months in the country districts of her home county, and taught for nine months in the city schools. She is a daughter of Joseph and Mary Ann (Riehl) Miller, the former of whom was born in Perry county, Pennsylvania, February 27, 1823, and died June 23, 1901. He was an early day shoemaker in Ohio, and worked at his trade of boot and shoemaker in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois, and later bought a farm in Wisconsin and followed farming. Mary Ann, his wife, was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, March 11, 1828, and died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Gladfelter, January 26, 1907, just one half hour after the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gladfelter was married. The children of John P. and Hannah Gladfelter are as follows: Jessie, wife of Otto Stunz, a painter of Hiawatha, Kans., and has one child, namely, Loran; Walter, living in Iowa.

Mr. Gladfelter is a Republican in his political pronouncement. Mrs. Gladfelter is a member of the Christian church. They are a worthy and well respected couple who are highly esteemed in their home neighborhood for their many good qualities.

**John Meisner**, a representative Rock Creek township farmer, was born October 11, 1864, at Batavia, Kane county, Illinois, and is a son of Jacob and Barbara (Bachman) Meisner, who were the parents of seven children, three of whom are living. Jacob Meisner, his father, was born at Hessenderanstindt, Germany, August 24, 1832, and immigrated to America when eighteen years old. He settled in New York State, and there learned the trade of blacksmith. He lived in New York until his migration to Kane county, Illinois, in 1856. He plied his trade there until the outbreak of the Civil war, and then showed his loyalty and devotion to his adopted country by enlisting in Company H, Fifty-second Illinois infantry. He was a brave and able soldier, and was wounded at the battle of Shiloh, April 7, 1863, and was discharged from further duty after leaving the army hospital where he had been in care of the surgeons and nurses for eighteen months while recovering from his wound.

Previous to the Civil war, in 1858, Mr. Meisner had made a trip to Nemaha county, Kansas, to look over the land with a view to making a permanent settlement there at some future date. He was so impressed with the looks of the country that he made up his mind to locate his family in this county. The war disarranged his plans somewhat, but, in 1866, he moved his family and movable belongings across the country via the ox wagon route, and made a settlement at Seneca, Kans. He opened a smithy in Seneca, and worked at his trade until 1872, at which time he moved to a farm which he had bought on his first trip to Kansas, and which was located in section 30, Berwick township. He tilled his acreage successfully until 1907, and then retired to a home in Sabetha, where he died in 1909. He was a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Sabetha Grand Army post. Mr. Meisner, Sr., was twice married, his first marriage taking place in Illinois with Barbara Bachman, in 1858. She was born at Wurtemberg, Germany, October 18, 1836, and died in 1875. His second wife was Susan Blair, born in Switzerland and who lost her life in the cyclone which swept Nemaha county May 17, 1896, leaving six children, all of whom are living in Nemaha county.

John Meisner was reared on his father's farm, and remained at home to assist his father until he was twenty-five years old. He then rented land on his own account, saved his surplus earnings each year and, in 1908, was enabled to make his first investment in eighty acres of land in Washington township. In 1909, he sold this tract, and bought the farm where he now resides and to which he has added forty acres, thus making a good sized farm of 200 acres. All of the improvements consisting of residence, barns, silo, granary and poultry house have been erected by Mr. Meisner since his first purchase of a quarter section. He is connected with the Farmers' Shipping Association of Price, Kans.

In 1890, John Meisner was united in marriage with Miss Ida M. Bahm, who has borne him children, as follows: Stella, who is a teacher in the Bern High School, a graduate of the Oneida High School and has

pursued normal courses in preparation for teaching; Clara, wife of Roy Dowdall, a carpenter living at Lincoln Center, Kans.; Hiram, farming the home place; James, Gertrude, Jacob, Edith, and Donald F., at home with their parents. Mrs. Ida Meisner was born July 11, 1872, in Geneva, Switzerland, and was brought to America by her parents when she was a child. Her parents located in Wayne county, Ohio, and later moved to Illinois, where her father died. Her mother and the family came to Nemaha county in 1889, and the mother is living in Sabetha.

While Mr. Meisner is a Democrat, he is inclined to be independent in his voting, and makes up his own mind as to the political principles enunciated by the various leaders of his party. He allows no so-called leader to dictate to him as to whom he should support. He is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and the Modern Woodmen of America.

**Herman Meisner.**—The Meisner family is one of the substantial and industrious families of Nemaha county of German descent. The sons of Jacob and Susan (Blair) Meisner are excellent farmers and very good citizens in their respective communities. Herman Meisner, of Rock Creek township, was born on his father's farm in Berwick township, section 36, July 27, 1878, and is a son of Jacob Meisner, concerning whose life story the reader is referred to the biography of John Meisner, a half brother of the subject of this review. Herman is a twin brother of Jacob Meisner, the younger.

Herman Meisner received his early education in the district schools and at the age of nineteen years he rented land from his father. He worked hard in order to get a start in the world and was energetic and industrious, carefully laying by a sum of money each year until he was able to buy a quarter section in section 18 of Rock Creek township in 1908. He bought this farm from his father and it was without improvements other than fencing at the time of purchasing. Mr. Meisner has built a good home, of nine rooms, all modern, and has erected a large barn forty-two by forty-eight feet in dimensions. He is a fancier of Shorthorn cattle.

Mr. Meisner has been twice married. He was united in matrimony with Margaret Adgeter in 1903, and who died in 1911, leaving one child, namely: Margaret Elizabeth. The first Mrs. Meisner was born in Switzerland, November 19, 1878. He was again married June 26, 1915, to Helen G. Maynard, who was born at Sabetha, Kans., April 15, 1891, and is a daughter of Charles and Margaret (Jacobs) Maynard, who were early settlers of Nemaha county.

Mr. Meisner is a Democrat in politics, who finds very little time outside of his farming interests to have much to do with political matters. His main interests lie with his home life and his farm, which his ambition is continually urging him to develop and make better and more productive each year. Although one of the younger generation of Kansas farmers, Mr. Meisner is making good and is a very successful citizen.

**Lawrence M. Crawford**, farmer and stockman of Rock Creek township, was born in Clinton County, New York, May 24, 1855, and is a son of William and Bessie (Armstrong) Crawford, who were the parents of four children, of whom Lawrence M. is the third born.

William Crawford was born in Ireland and immigrated to America when he was a young man. After living for a time in the Eastern States he made a settlement in Iowa and died there in 1876 at the age of seventy-three years. He was twice married, and the mother of Lawrence M. was his second wife. She was born in Ireland, left there when a child and died in Iowa in 1869, aged fifty-two years.

Lawrence M. Crawford left Iowa and came to Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1888. He bought eighty acres of land in section 21, Rock Creek township, and has it well improved with good buildings, trees and shrubbery. He rented land for a few years and in 1891 bought his present home farm. Mr. Crawford has been twice married, his first union being with a Miss Mitchell in 1876, who bore him three children, as follows: Platt, a grocer at Sabetha; Harold, a clothing merchant, located at Marshfield, Oregon; Arthur, living in California. The first Mrs. Crawford was born in Iowa in 1858 and died in 1903. His second marriage occurred in 1906 with Sarah Lahr, born in Pennsylvania, 1865, and a daughter of Benjamin Lahr, an early settler of Nemaha county.

Mr. Crawford is a Republican who takes much interest in local and county political matters, and is a member of the school board of school district No. 20. He and Mrs. Crawford are members of the Congregational Church and he is fraternally affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America.

**John W. Zimmerman.**—For over fifty years the Zimmerman family have lived in Nemaha county and have prospered as people of their industry and descent invariably do. The family is of German descent and is one of the largest in the county. Twelve children in all were born to John and Clara (Deming) Zimmerman, parents of him whose name heads this review.

John Zimmerman, the father, was born in Germany in 1847 and immigrated with his parents to this country when he was twelve years old and settled at Batavia, Ill. When President Lincoln called for troops with which to quell the rebellion of the Southern States, John Zimmerman responded and enlisted for service in Company I, Fifty-second Illinois infantry, and served faithfully throughout the war. He fought at the great battle of Shiloh and several other important and hard fought engagements in which his regiment participated. After the close of the war he accompanied his parents to Nemaha county and homesteaded in Gilman township. He built a log cabin of native timber, cut in the vicinity of his cabin, and also homesteaded another tract in section six of this township. His first location was in section number one. Mr. Zimmerman was hard working and economical and accumulated 440 acres of good farm lands. He died February

28, 1897, after a life of industry and hardship endured for the benefit of his family seldom equalled. During the pioneer days following the Civil war when money was scarce and the settlers were having a hard time to make ends meet, Mr. Zimmerman would plant his corn in the spring, and would then drive his ox team across the country to Colorado and put in the season hauling freight from Leadville to Denver, Col. He would continue this employment until the time came to gather his crops and would return home to his wife and children. He made several trips of this character and would be absent from home from July until November. Mrs. Zimmerman was born in Maine in 1854.

John W. Zimmerman, with whom this review is directly concerned, was born in Nemaha county, December 26, 1872. He attended the district school and assisted his parents in the farm work until twenty years old. He then hired out as farm hand for a wage of eighteen dollars per month for a period of four years. In 1896 he took charge of the Zimmerman estate and managed it for three years. He next rented for two years and in 1901 he bought his present home farm of eighty acres, improved it by rebuilding the house and erecting a barn forty by fifty feet in size.

Mr. Zimmerman was married in 1901 to Miss Lulu Winney, who was born in Wisconsin, November 10, 1885. Mr. and Mrs. Zimmerman are parents of the following children: Helen, deceased; Lloyd and Harold. Mr. Zimmerman is active and influential in the affairs of the Democratic party and has filled minor township offices. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

**William H. Wurzbacher**, of Rock Creek township, was born on a farm in Jones county, Iowa, January 11, 1858, and is a son of John H. and Margaret (Bechtine) Wurzbacher, to whom ten children were born, of which the subject of this review is the second in order of age. The father of William H. was born in Germany, and became a cooper and farmer. He emigrated from his native land in 1848, lived in Maryland, and in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and settled in Iowa as early as 1854. He developed a farm in Jones county, that State, and there reared his family. His death occurred in 1902 at the age of eighty-two years. His wife, and the mother of William H., left Germany when she was twenty years old, and died at the old home in Iowa in 1892, aged sixty years.

William H. Wurzbacher began doing for himself on rented land in Jones county, Iowa, when he was twenty-five years old, in 1883. He did this for six years, and then came to Nemaha county in 1889 for the purpose of making a permanent home for his family, where land was cheaper and opportunities were greater for a poor man to get ahead. He bought a quarter section of land in Capioma township, of which seventy acres were broken up and in cultivation, but it was otherwise unimproved. He improved this farm and sold it at a profit over and above the original investment in the fall of 1903, and moved to his present farm, which he pur-

chased in February, 1902, consisting of 160 acres in section 10, Rock Creek township. His idea of buying this farm, which is located just one mile west of Sabetha, was to get a place, which was near to his church. The only improvement on this tract was the fencing, although the land had been cultivated for some years. Mr. Wurzbacher built a large white house, barn and other out buildings, and now has a very attractive farm place, which is growing more valuable each year on account of its nearness to the enterprising city of Sabetha and the hard work of the proprietor, who is constantly improving the soil and making it more productive. Mr. Wurzbacher has some fine horses and cattle, in which the Aberdeen Angus strain predominates.

He was married, in 1883, to Mrs. Julia Hollister, who was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, November 27, 1860, and was a daughter of Elisha Hollister, who settled in Nemaha county in 1883, and died here in 1898. One child blessed this union, namely: DeWitt T., born April 1, 1885, in Jones county, Iowa, and was married, in 1912, to Miss Katie Norrie, who was born on a farm near Sabetha, February 3, 1888. She is a daughter of Eben and Elizabeth (Lahr) Norrie, natives of Canada and Illinois respectively, and who were early settlers in Nemaha county, Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt Wurzbacher have one child, namely: Wilbur William, born March 31, 1913. Mrs. William H. Wurzbacher departed this life April 24, 1904. She was a deeply religious woman, and was a worker in the United Brethren church. She was a good and faithful wife to her husband and a wise mother to her son.

Mr. Wurzbacher is independent in his political views, and devotes his attention outside of his personal business affairs to his church. He is a trustee of the Sabetha United Brethren Church, and is one of the ablest laymen of this denomination.

**Quinter Davis**, who is farming a half section of land in Rock Creek township, and is owner of a fine quarter section, was born in Adams county, Iowa, September 16, 1876. He is a son of Rev. William and Susan (Slifer) Davis, to whom were born three sons and a daughter, as follows: U. S. Davis, Quinter Davis, Charles Davis and Fern Davis.

Rev. William Davis was born in Maryland in 1847, and during his younger days was a druggist. When a young man he removed to Illinois and went from that State to Iowa, following agricultural pursuits in both States. He removed from Iowa to Brown county, Kansas, in 1881, and engaged in farming. He is a half owner of the farm which is being managed by his son, Quinter. For a number of years the senior Davis has been a minister of the Brethren church and carried on his ministerial duties in behalf of various Brethren churches while attending to his farming. He is now retired from active farm work and resides at Morrill, Kans., although he still continues his ministerial work to a certain extent. Rev. Davis is a Civil war veteran, who enlisted in a Maryland regiment and was wounded at the battle of Antietam, and also fought in the battle of Bull Run.



Quinter Davis attended the Morrill public schools and attended the Baptist College, located in that city. He began farming at the age of twenty-two years and in 1907 came to Nemaha county and bought 160 acres of land, which was half of a tract of 320 acres owned by his father. The Davis farm is well improved and is noted for its fine live stock. Mr. Davis has been a breeder of Shorthorn cattle and has also been a large feeder of cattle.

He was married in 1901 to Mary Whitmer, born near Mound City, Mo., in 1877, who has borne him children as follows: Harold, Lyse, Ronald and Max. Mrs. Davis is a daughter of Rev. Peter E. and Cynthia Ann (Cable) Whitmer. Peter E. Whitmer was reared in Ohio and served in the Union army during the Civil war as a member of an Ohio regiment. In one engagement in which he participated a shot tore all of the fingers from his left hand. After the war he took up ministerial work and also farmed in Missouri and Nebraska. He came from Nebraska to Kansas in 1894 and is living at Ottawa, Kans. Mrs. Davis' mother was born in Ohio and died in 1910 at the age of sixty-four years. Mrs. Davis is well educated in music and has taught music in her home community.

Mr. Davis is a Republican and is a member of the school board of his district. He and Mrs. Davis have many friends in Nemaha and Brown counties and are intelligent, well read people, who believe in keeping abreast of the times.

**William E. Johnson**, owner of a fine farm of 160 acres, and township trustee and assessor of Rock Creek township, was born at Galva, Ill., March 1, 1869. He is a son of William and Mary (Lafferty) Johnson, both of whom were natives of Ireland. William Johnson, father of the subject of this review, came to America when a boy, and after his residence of some years in Illinois, he migrated to Nemaha county in 1870, and bought a farm in Capioma township, which he cultivated until his death in 1908. His wife was born in Ireland, and died in Nemaha county in 1894.

The early schooling of William E. Johnson was obtained in district 48, and he began making his own way when twenty-two years old. When he attained to that age, he worked out as farm hand at \$18 per month until 1889, at which time he rented land in Adams and Gilman townships. In 1890, he bought a farm of 100 acres in Gilman township at a cost of \$32 an acre. Three years later, he sold this farm for \$60 an acre, and bought his present home place of 160 acres in Rock Creek township. For some years, Mr. Johnson was a successful breeder of Poland China hogs, which he exhibited with success at the county fairs, and disposed of at public sales besides shipping many full bred swine to distant points for breeding purposes.

He was married in 1895 to Della L. Myers, who was born at Morrill, Brown county, Kansas, August 23, 1874, and is a daughter of Sol R. Myers, whose review appears in this historical work on Nemaha county.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have one child, namely: Harvey M., born December 13, 1904.

Mr. Johnson is prominent in the affairs of the Democratic party, and received the appointment of assessor of his township in 1911. So well did he perform his official duties, and so successful was his conduct of the affairs of his office that he was elected to the office in 1912, and again elected trustee in 1914. He is also a member of the school board of his district, and takes a keen and decided interest in township and county matters, as befitting a wide awake and intelligent citizen. He and Mrs. Johnson are affiliated with the Methodist church, and are well respected by their many friends and acquaintances throughout Nemaha county. Mr. Johnson ranks high in Masonic circles, and has taken all degrees of Masonry, including the thirty-second, and is a Mystic Shriner.

**Daniel N. Price.**—"The Snowdown Stock Farm."—The biography of a successful man must, in order to be comprehensive and read intelligently, bring out the salient facts regarding his life work and show wherein lies the main features underlying the influences which have had a decided bearing upon his rise in life. Ambition has characterized the life work of Daniel N. Price, successful farmer and well known live stock breeder of Center township, Nemaha county, and much inherent intelligence and industry have enabled him to rise above the mediocre and make a life profession of his work. Mr. Price has long been the most successful breeder of thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle in northern Kansas. The product of his skill as a breeder has been exhibited at the county fairs held in Seneca, and he has been awarded first, second and third prizes on several occasions. Mr. Price disposes of his fine live stock at private sale on his place and realizes a comfortable income from these sales. The "Snowdown" herd of Shorthorns, numbering fifty-two head, is headed by "Good Scotchman" and "Prince Imperial."

Daniel N. Price was born on a farm in Ogle county, Illinois, March 9, 1858, and is a son of Jacob and Ann Maria (Brown) Price, who reared a family of five sons and five daughters. Jacob Price was born in Washington county, Maryland, October 28, 1818, and was a son of Jacob Price, a native of Germany. Jacob Price, the father of Daniel N. Price, migrated from his native State to Ogle county, Illinois, September 25, 1845, and four years later, June 14, 1849, he was married to Ann Maria Brown, who was born in Washington county, Maryland, September 27, 1829. Both parents were members of the United Brethren church. Jacob Price died in Illinois, May 25, 1885, and his wife departed this life in 1910. Of the ten children born to Jacob Price and wife, five are deceased.

Daniel N. Price remained at home with his parents until February, 1891, and then came west to Center township, then a part of Marion township, Nemaha county, Kansas, and he and his wife settled upon 320 acres which she then owned. Mr. Price has made a wonderful success of his farming operations since coming to Kansas and has greatly im-



DANIEL N. PRICE.



MRS. DANIEL N. PRICE.



proved his farm with substantial farm buildings, including a horse barn, 28x58 feet in extent, and a cattle barn, 28x40 feet in dimensions, with sheds on three sides of the structure. He has devoted his attention and skill as a breeder to the production of fine Shorthorn cattle and has succeeded in making a name for himself in this particular line. Mr. and Mrs. Price moved to Baileyville in the spring of 1906, and resided in town seven years and then returned to the farm.

Mr. Price was married, December 24, 1890, to Miss Anna E. Good, and to this union have been born four children, as follows: Wava Leone, born June 25, 1895, and died September 12, 1907; Everett, born November 23, 1896, a student of animal husbandry at the State Agricultural College of Manhattan, Kans.; Elva May, born May 8, 1898, a student in the Seneca High School, and Nola, born August 7, 1908. Mrs. Price was born in Ogle county, Illinois, February 23, 1862, and is a daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Plumb) Good, the former born in 1821, and the latter in 1825, whose parents were natives of Pennsylvania. Jacob and Elizabeth Good reared a family of ten children and are now deceased, the former dying October 26, 1886, and the latter, June 6, 1900. Previous to his death Jacob Good had purchased land in Nemaha county and made arrangements to move here.

Mr. Price is allied with the Republican party and takes an active part in political affairs in his county. He is the present treasurer of Center township, and is a shareholder and director of the Baileyville Bank. He and his estimable wife are members of the Baptist church, and Mr. Price is fraternally connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Price is one of the well-to-do farmers of Nemaha county, who is a thorough and loyal Kansan, interested in all good movements for the development of his county and State, and takes a keen interest in the welfare of his neighbors and the people of the county. He and Mrs. Price take a just pride in their fine family of children and are giving them every opportunity within their power to bestow in order to educate them to become good citizens and take their rightful place in the social and civic life of their community.

**Frank M. Althouse**, well known farmer and breeder of Rock Creek township, was born in Andrew county, Missouri, March 26, 1861, and is a son of Herman and Susan (Howard) Althouse, whose life history is recorded in the sketch of Elmer E. Althouse, published elsewhere in this volume of Nemaha county history. Mr. Althouse accompanied his parents to Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1862. He received a district school education, and was reared to the farmer's life. In 1886, he began to work in his own behalf, and homesteaded land in Nebraska for two years, and also owned a tract of land in Colorado. After two years spent in homesteading, he returned to his home county, and bought his farm of 160 acres in sections 32 and 33, of Rock Creek township. The place was unimproved and only partly broken up for cultivation. During his tenure of this farm, Mr. Althouse has built a barn sixty feet square, and made

other good improvements. He is engaged in breeding Shorthorn cattle, and is making a success of the undertaking. He is also a breeder of Hampshire hogs, and has a large number of this valuable variety of swine. Mr. Althouse has a natural wood, covering ten acres on his place, but has planted more trees and an orchard so as to beautify the surroundings of his home. The quarter section has been added to until he owns 240 acres in all.

Mr. Althouse was married, in 1901, to Margaret Miller, born, in 1875, in Rock Creek township, a daughter of William H. and Caroline (Mercer) Miller, now living at Sabetha, and who were early settlers in Nemaha county. Mr. and Mrs. Althouse have four children, as follows: Fred H., Floyd M., Marjorie and Mary E.

Mr. Althouse is allied with the Democratic party, but prefers to leave political matters to those who have the time and inclination to make a pursuit of politics. He is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is a good, useful and upright citizen who has the respect and good wishes of many friends and acquaintances for his excellent demeanor.

**Lawrence V. Sanford**, one of the younger enterprising farmers of Rock Creek township, is a native of the Hoosier State and was born in Union county, Indiana, February 11, 1882. His parents are Giles C. and Amanda (Swain) Sanford, to whom have been born seven children, six of whom are living, as follows: Fred L., who married Sarah, a daughter of Sol R. Myers, and resides at Peculiar, Mo.; Clark C., living on the Sanford home place; Lena, housekeeper for Lawrence V.; Emmett R., who married Ella Wood, of Bedford, Iowa, is a resident of Missoula, Mont., a graduate of the Zanerian Art College at Columbus, Ohio, and a teacher by profession; Perry, deceased; Rosa V., at home; Lawrence V., with whom this biography is directly concerned.

Giles C. Sanford was born in Union county, Indiana, May 10, 1840, and became a farmer. When war was declared between the North and South he enlisted in the One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Indiana cavalry and was first sergeant of Company D, and later received a lieutenant's commission. He fought at the battles of Nashville, Franklin, Wilson's Creek, Brentwood, Little Harpeth, Sugar Creek and others. He became afflicted with the prevailing scourge of measles and was confined to the army hospital for a few months. Aside from this disease he suffered no serious trouble as a result of his arduous experience during the war. After the close of his war service Giles C. returned to his home in Indiana and married. He farmed in Indiana until February 18, 1885, and then migrated to Nemaha county Kansas, and bought 160 acres of land in section 30, Rock Creek township. At the time of his purchase of the Sanford home place it was improved very scantily, with a small house and a pole shelter for the live stock with the usual pioneer's roof made of prairie grass. Mr. Sanford built many improvements on the place more in keeping with his ideas of what a

farm should have, and engaged in the breeding of Morgan horses. His farm consisted of 260 acres well improved at the time of his death, March 15, 1915. He was a member of the Masonic order and was well and favorably known throughout Nemaha county. Speaking in a genealogical sense, Giles C. Sanford was a son of Edward and Hepsabeth (Macy) Sanford, natives of Nantucket Island, and whose ancestry were descended from English immigrants who came from the ancestral home of the family in England soon after the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, Mass., in 1620. A record of this old American family which dates back from the sixteenth century is in existence. Descendants of Edward Sanford and his brothers reside in Indiana and various States of the Middle West. The first settlement of the family when its members left their old New England home was in the western reserve of Ohio, where many revolutionary grants were made to revolutionary soldiers and their children. Mrs. Amanda (Swain) Sanford was born in Union county, Indiana, November 11, 1841, and was a daughter of Nathaniel and Rhoda (Gardner) Swain, natives of North Carolina, who came to Union county, Indiana, in 1818. Mrs. Sanford resides on the Sanford homestead.

Lawrence V. Sanford attended the district school of his neighborhood and also studied at Oneida in the high school. He became a student at the Kansas State Agricultural College in 1900 and pursued the complete course in agriculture and animal husbandry and received his degree in 1904. He at once began farming in Nemaha county on the old homestead. Mr. Sanford has applied the science of agriculture which he learned at the State school to good advantage in the cultivation of the farm and has made a striking and unusual success of his life work. He specializes in pure bred Shorthorn cattle, for the reason that it pays best to have good beef producing animals on the place. He is a stockholder and a director of the Oneida State Bank and finds time outside of his farming duties to take part in civic and social affairs and is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. It is only natural to find that a man of his education and intelligence is an independent in politics.

**Edward Pendergrass.**—It is somewhat of a distinction to be probably the oldest living native-born resident of a township of Nemaha county, but Edward Pendergrass, born in 1862, is at least one of the oldest native-born Kansans in Rock Creek township. He is not only a pioneer by virtue of having been born in this county, but his father, John Pendergrass, was one of the first settlers of the eastern part of Nemaha county and one of the earliest of the Kansas pioneers. Mr. Pendergrass is well known throughout the county and has a fine farm of 320 acres in Rock creek township.

John Pendergrass, his father, was born in Ireland in 1828 and left the Emerald Isle when twelve years of age. He crossed the ocean and lived in various parts of the United States until he came to Atchison,

Kans., in 1856. Two years later he bought a farm in Berwick township, Nemaha county, but did not develop it until after the Civil war. He served as a cavalryman in the Second Nebraska regiment of cavalry and did valiant service in behalf of the Union during the Civil war. He returned to his farm in Berwick township after his war service and lived thereon until his removal to Rock Creek township in the early seventies and lived there until his death in 1908. His wife was Miss Julia Culhane, who was born in Ireland in 1832, and died October 11, 1885. Both parents were members of the Catholic church.

Edward Pendergrass assisted his father on the home farm until he was twenty-eight years old and then rented land from his father, who later gave him a deed to eighty acres. He has added to this modest beginning until he owns 320 acres, well improved and located five miles south of Sabetha in section 32 on the Nemaha-Brown county line. Forty acres of this tract is covered with natural timber, which is quite an asset in the way of providing both fuel and lumber for use on the farm.

Mr. Pendergrass was married in 1890 to Miss Agnes O'Kane, who was born in Ireland on February 17, 1871, and immigrated to America when she was eighteen years old. She departed this life on November 7, 1911, leaving six children to mourn the loss of a good and kind mother. The children are as follows: George, deceased; Roy, Walter, Julia, John, Ford and Nina.

Mr. Pendergrass is a Republican in politics, but has never been a seeker after political preferment. He and his children are members of the Catholic church.

**George W. Montgomery.**—Although George W. Montgomery, of Berwick township, was not reared on a farm and knew nothing practically of the rudiments of farming when he began his career in Nemaha county, an inherent intelligence and the power of adapting his talents to a new vocation enabled him to make good and achieve a success far above the mediocre and commonplace. He became a specialist, made a success of a strange and entirely new avocation after spending years at the cabinet maker's trade, and is now one of the large landowners of this county.

Mr. Montgomery was born in a home on Federal street, Philadelphia, Pa., October 13, 1851, and is a son of William and Martha (McGarvey) Montgomery, who were the parents of five children. William Montgomery, his father, was born in County Farman, Ireland, December, 1825, and was brought to Pennsylvania by his parents when four years old. He learned the trade of cabinet maker in his youth in the city of Philadelphia and resided in that city while working at his trade for twenty-four years. He then removed to Manchester, Ohio, and followed his trade until his death in 1895. His wife was born in Ireland in 1826 and died in 1856. The senior Montgomery was again married to Nancy Freeland who bore him two children.



George W. Montgomery attended the schools of Manchester, Ohio, and learned the cabinet maker's trade. After he became proficient at his trade he worked with his father for three years and then went to Cleveland, Ohio, where he was employed as skilled workman in a sash and door factory for seven years. While working at his trade he did considerable thinking; his thoughts turned to the idea that it might be possible for him to delve at his bench and lathe all of his life and he would probably never become well-to-do and always be a dependent worker. At this time the famous Horace Greely had been sending forth his great admonition, "Go West, young man, go West, and grow up with the country." Mr. Montgomery saw others going West and heard tales of the cheap lands to be obtained in Kansas and became imbued with the idea that if others could go west and succeed he could do it also. Accordingly he laid away his tools for the time being and came to Nemaha county in 1878. Knowing nothing of farming he took the shortest and most practical road to knowledge in the avocation upon which he had decided and hired himself out as farm hand at a wage of fifteen dollars a month. Two years later he became a renter and in 1880 he bought eighty acres in section twenty-one, Berwick township. This tract was unimproved and undeveloped. Mr. Montgomery built a small house, fourteen by twenty feet, set out trees and an orchard and a grove of shade trees, so that time and the Kansas soil would in a few years give his farm the appearance of an old homestead, such as can be seen everywhere in his native State. As the years passed and the trees and shrubbery grew his place became beautified and he made the necessary additions to his home. He likewise annexed the contingent land to his "eighty" on all sides and his large acreage now extends to all four corners of the section and embraces 620 acres of fine land. Mr. Montgomery has specialized in thoroughbred live stock and has been successful as a breeder of Durham cattle and standard bred Percheron horses.

Mr. Montgomery was married in March 11, 1885, to Anna Culverhouse, and this union has been blessed with seven children, as follows: William, deceased; Mrs. Mattie Miller, living in Berwick township, and has one child, George L.; Charles, Robert, Alma, George, at home; Bessie, is deceased. The mother of these children was born near Wilkesbarre, Pa., November 2, 1861, and is a daughter of Charles and Martha (Shiffer) Culverhouse, both of whom were natives of the Keystone State and immigrated to Nemaha county, Kansas, in January, 1872. The Culverhouse family settled on a farm on the county line south of Sabetha, later lived two years at Fairview, Kans., and then moved to Arkansas, where Mr. Culverhouse died in May, 1900. Mrs. Montgomery's mother makes her home among her children.

Mr. Montgomery is an independent in politics and votes according to the dictates of his conscience and good judgment. He allows no man or so-called political boss to inform him as to how he should vote

or as to what political principles and tenets he should follow. He reads, studies, and decides for himself as to the merits of the various candidates and creeds. He and Mrs. Montgomery are affiliated religiously with the Baptist church. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

**William Lukert**, prosperous and enterprising farmer of Walnut township, Brown county, Kansas, is a native of Germany, and one of the adopted sons of Kansas who has made good in the land of his adoption, and is loyal and steadfast in his allegiance to the land which has afforded him and his a comfortable substance and given his parents and brothers an opportunity to achieve moderate wealth and prestige.

Mr. Lukert was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, April 9, 1870, and is a son of Frederick Lukert, concerning whose career an account is given in the biography of John F. Lukert, county engineer of Nemaha county. Mr. Lukert left his native land in company with his parents in 1887, and was reared to young manhood on his father's farm in Walnut township, Brown county. He received his schooling in the district school of Rock Creek township in Nemaha county, and also went to school in Berwick township. His entire life associations have been almost entirely with Nemaha county people and, although Mr. Lukert lives just over the line in Brown county, he has the warmest spot in his heart for Nemaha county. He rented his father's farm in 1891, and in 1894, he bought his present farm of 147 acres. He has placed all of the improvements on this place which include a modern nine room residence, attractively painted in white and a large barn 34x64 feet in dimensions and other buildings. Eighty acres of Mr. Lukert's 364 acres lie in Nemaha county, Kansas.

Mr. Lukert was married, in 1894, to Barbara Keller, who was born in Germany on June 14, 1875. Three children have been born to this union, as follows: Paul, John and Marie, all of whom are at home with their parents.

Mr. Lukert is independent in his political beliefs, and votes independently, regardless of the party platforms or creeds as expressed by the leaders of the various political parties. He is a member of the Evangelical church, and is affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

**James F. Starns**, retired farmer and Union veteran, Sabetha, Kans., was born in Fountain county, Indiana, January 20, 1842, and is a son of James and Matilda Starns, whose life stories are given in the biography of Frank M. Starns, written elsewhere in this volume.

The parents of James F. Starns left Indiana, when James F. was a boy, and made settlement in Wapello county, Iowa. This was in the pioneer days of the settlement and development of Iowa, and the settlers labored under great difficulties. Consequently, the children of James and Matilda Starns had very little schooling, and the most of school attendance that James F. ever got was for about three months of each year, during the winter time. Lack of suitable clothing and footwear was one of the serious drawbacks to education in the Starns family, and if the chil-

dren had shoes to protect their feet from the bitter cold of winter, they attended the school sessions; if not, they stayed at home. In 1856, James Starns and his family migrated westward to Brown county, Kansas. James F. was then fourteen years old, and able to do almost a man's work in the fields. For the first five years in Kansas, he broke prairie with a team of oxen.

On September 28, 1861, he enlisted as a member of Company D, Eighth Kansas infantry, which was enrolled in Nemaha and Brown counties, and started to the seat of war from Sabetha. Mr. Starns served under Generals Thomas, Sherman and Rosecrans, and was present at the great battle of Chickamauga, receiving a wound in the neck during that memorable battle. He took part in all of the great battles fought by the Union armies between Chickamauga and Atlanta, and served the Union in twelve southern States during his time of service. He re-enlisted as a veteran volunteer in east Tennessee in 1864. Comrade Starns was never taken prisoner for the very simple reason that he was too good a "runner," when his command was effecting a retreat when the odds were going against the Union forces. He received his final discharge at Leavenworth, Kans., January 9, 1866. Following his return home, he hauled logs to the saw mills for three years. In 1869, he began farming on rented land and later bought forty acres in Morrill township, Brown county, Kansas. He improved this tract with a house and farm buildings, and cultivated it for thirty-three years, and then traded it for an eighty-acre tract in Capioma township, Nemaha county. Three years later he sold this farm, and then bought forty acres north of Sabetha, in Berwick township, which he sold in 1915, and retired to a cottage home in Sabetha.

"Comrade" Starns was married in Richardson county, Nebraska, on December 24, 1869, to Elizabeth Eakins, who was born near Ottumwa, Iowa, October 15, 1849, and is a daughter of William and Marina (Vassar) Eakins, natives of Indiana and Missouri respectively. Mrs. Starns' parents made a settlement in Brown county, Kansas, in 1855. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Starns: Elmer, a book-keeper, Kansas City, Mo.; Howard, a graduate of the St. Joseph Veterinary College, and a practitioner at Humboldt, Neb.

Mr. Starns is a Republican and a loyal adherent of the principles of his party. For years he has been a staunch and unswerving supporter of the party candidates. He is a member of the Grand Army post of Sabetha, and is hale and vigorous for his age. He is proud of the fact that he was given the opportunity to offer his life in defense of the Union, and is also proud of the important fact that he is one of the oldest living pioneer settlers of Kansas. For sixty years, he has lived in Kansas and has witnessed the settlement and development of a great State and county. He has seen the prairies made to yield food for the millions of people in the nation and has witnessed the gradual transformation of an unsettled wilderness to a smiling and peaceful land of plenty, dotted with towns and cities and comfortable and prosperous farms.

**Charles W. Ridgway**, owner and manager of a 480-acre farm in Adams township, was born in Polk county, Iowa, November 30, 1854, and is a son of Peter M. and Louisa M. (Hamlin) Ridgway, both of whom were natives of Virginia. Peter M. Ridgway, the father, was born at Wheeling, W. Va., in 1822, and was partly reared in that city, and was a son of David Ridgway, born in Ohio in 1788, who was descended from the Ridgway family of England, members of whom immigrated to the New England colonies in about 1700. The family of Ridgway is one of the oldest of the pure American strain. David Ridgway was one of the very first pioneer settlers of Iowa and removed to that State in about 1834, became the owner of 1,000 acres of land in Polk county, and made his original preemption on the site of part of the city of Des Moines. He bought up a great deal of land at the government sale price of \$1.25 an acre and became one of the prominent and influential figures in the early civic life of Iowa. David Ridgway was the father of six sons and four daughters, as follows: Abraham J., born July 16, 1814; Isaac, born September 28, 1816; David, born December 20, 1817; John, born May 24, 1819; Catharine, born May 27, 1820; Elizabeth, born November 21, 1822; Peter M., father of Charles W., born April 30, 1824, and died March 17, 1879; Rachel, born December 29, 1825; Rebecca, born March 15, 1828; Samuel, born in 1830. David Ridgway died at Des Moines, Iowa, at the age of seventy-six years.

Peter M. Ridgway worked on the parental farm until he attained his majority and then moved to a tract of 160 acres which his father gave him, in Polk county, Iowa. Some years later he bought a section of land in Page county, Iowa, and lived thereon. During the Civil war he served as captain of the Iowa Home Guards, and after the war he sold his Iowa land and moved to Kansas, in 1866, engaging in the livestock business in Neosho county. When Peter Ridgway came to Kansas he brought along with his outfit some very fine livestock, but suffered a serious misfortune when his herd of fine cattle became infected with Texas fever, caught from herds of cattle which were driven north from Texas for grazing on the Kansas lands. He died on a farm near Seneca, Kans., in 1879, and his remains are interred in the Seneca cemetery. Peter M. Ridgway and Louisa Hamlin were married in 1848, and they were the parents of the following children: Samuel and Abraham, deceased; Charles W., the subject of this review; Lois L., deceased; Peter W., living in Nemaha county, a farmer and father of twelve children; Ephraim, deceased; Elmer E., a harness merchant, Kelly, Kans. The mother of these children died in 1869.

Charles W. Ridgway's early life was spent on a pioneer farm in Page county, Iowa, whither his parents had removed when he was a small boy. Settlements were few and far between and school houses were very rare. The school which he attended, and which was located on the border line of Iowa and Missouri, required a three-mile walk on his part morning and evening. However, Mr. Ridgway remembers the good times which the Iowa and Missouri boys had while attending this school.



CHARLES W. RIDGWAY.



MRS. CHARLES W. RIDGWAY.



After attaining his majority, he attended school in Topeka, Kans., for two years, the family having removed to Neosho county, Kansas, in 1866. He and his three brothers bought eighty acres of land in partnership and farmed it in common for five years. At the time of Mr. Ridgway's marriage, in 1882, he had eighty acres of land and owed one-fourth of a \$1,555 mortgage on the eighty-acre tract. However, he worked hard, managed his finances ably and eventually became the owner of 480 acres. It might be well to add here that the Ridgway family came to Nemaha county in 1879. The Ridgway farm is one of the finest tracts in Nemaha county and is well improved with a large thirteen-room house, fitted up in a modern manner with a water plant and heating and acetylene lighting system.

The barn is 40x48 feet, with a large stone basement. Other buildings on this fine agricultural plant are kept in first-class condition. Mr. Ridgway has long been a breeder of Percheron horses, and is president of the Kelly Draft Horse Company, a concern which has imported several fine Belgian and Percheron horses from abroad. He also maintains a drove of over 100 pure bred Poland China swine. The Ridgway farm boasts some of the finest livestock in northern Kansas, but the proprietor has never placed any animals on exhibition, preferring to handle well bred live stock simply because it is the best thing to do on the farm.

Mr. Ridgway has been appointed to serve as township treasurer on two different occasions, has served several terms as justice of the peace and has served as delegate to the Republican State conventions at Topeka. However, although he has always taken a keen interest in political matters and is interested in the success of his party at the polls, he has never allowed politics to interfere with his farming operations, and believes that a man's first duty is to his business, home, and to his family.

The marriage of Charles W. Ridgway and Julia Thomas was consummated February 14, 1882, and has been blessed with five children, as follows: Olive, who died in infancy; Mrs. Rose M. Karnowski, living on a farm two miles north of Centralia, and has four children, namely: Gladys, Raymond, Bernice and Edna Fay; Edward C., resides on one of his father's farms and has one child living, Dewart; Tracy E., living on one of his father's farms, and has two children, Gerald and Bernetta; Mrs. Amanda B. Gettle, mother of two living children, Roberta and Maxine. Mrs. Julia (Thomas) Ridgway was born in Kentucky, November 22, 1861, and is a daughter of Rev. A. S. and Mehalie (Harrington) Thomas, natives of Kentucky. Rev. Thomas was reared in Kentucky, being born in February, 1830, and was educated for the ministry, and followed his ministerial career until his demise at Reno, Neb., June 5, 1914. His wife, Mehalia Harrington, was born in Kentucky and died in Texas. She was the mother of nine children, as follows: Mrs. Sarah E. Purtee, living on a Colorado fruit ranch; Mary I., deceased; Alfred F., a ranchman in Texas; Mrs. Elizabeth Purtee, Kansas City, Mo.; Mrs. Maria Defrees,

Kansas City, Mo.; James W., Kansas City, Mo.; Martha, deceased; Asa S., a farmer near Kansas City, Mo.; Julia, wife of Charles W. Ridgway, subject of this review, and who was reared in the country until she was ten years old, and then removed with her parents to Kansas City, Mo., where her father was pastor of the Christian Church. She remained with her parents until her marriage.

The Ridgways are members of the Evangelical church and Mr. Ridgway is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, No. 19, of Seneca.

**George E. Kohler.**—The life story of George E. Kohler, of Berwick township, portrays in expressive and substantial terms a record of success which is seldom equalled. When a man can become owner of 600 acres of valuable Kansas land in the comparatively short space of twenty-four years, it is evidence of ability and industry of a very high order and the tale of his accomplishments is well worth recording in terms of praise.

George E. Kohler was born on a farm in Fayette county, Iowa, March 11, 1868, and is a son of Benjamin and Magdalena (Wenzer) Kohler, natives of Germany. Benjamin Kohler, his father, was born in Switzerland in 1830 and learned the miller's trade. When sixteen years old he immigrated to America and settled in Elgin, Iowa, where he became manager of a flour mill, lived there the remainder of his days and died at Elgin in 1905. George E. Kohler's mother was born in Switzerland in 1831 and is making her home at West Union, Iowa.

When George E. Kohler was twenty-three years old he married and left his home city of Elgin, Iowa, with a capital of \$175. He started West in the hope of finding a place where he could make his fortune and become owner of a farm. His westward pathway led him to Bern, Kans., where many Swiss people had settled and formed a Swiss colony. For a few months he worked as farm hand at a wage of \$20 per month. He then rented his present home farm in section 28, four miles northwest of Sabetha, and in 1892 he bought the place.

At the time Mr. Kohler purchased his farm the improvements were not of much account. He set out trees and shrubbery, built a large house and barn and eventually created a desirable homestead in accordance with his ideas of what a farm home should be like. The first farm was not sufficient for him, however, and as his means allowed he reached out for more and more land until at the present time he owns 600 acres of good farm land in Brown and Nemaha counties.

Mr. Kohler was married to Sarah Wenger, who has borne him one child, namely: Mrs. Lulu Munz, who makes her home at the Kohler place. Mrs. Kohler was born in Elgin, Iowa, March 28, 1869, and is a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Kizer) Wenger, natives of Switzerland, who emigrated from their native land to America in 1874 and made an early settlement in Nemaha county, Kansas.

It is only natural to find that a citizen of the calibre and ability of



Mr. Kohler should take an influential part in civic and political matters in his home township. He has done so and served the people as township trustee for six years, beginning with 1909. He has also been a member of the school board of district sixty-two. The Democratic party has always had the allegiance of Mr. Kohler. While he is conservative in his methods of doing business and is a careful business man, he is big hearted and generous and he is known as a ready and liberal contributor to the needy and destitute and is a firm believer in practical Christianity without the outward show.

**John M. Shaefer.**—Neat appearing and well kept is the summary of the observation of the average onlooker when he views the home farm of John M. Shaefer in Home township. The Shaefer farm well deserves all of the praise which can be bestowed upon it, and Mr. and Mrs. Shaefer can be justly proud of their handsome home and the fertile acres which surround it. Evidence of industry and thrift are seen on every hand, and fat swine, handsome horses, and sleek and well fed cattle are seen in the fields to please the eye of the observer. Added to these is a fine family of children, of whom their parents are very proud, with good and just right, inasmuch as this family is their contribution to their home county and State.

John M. Shaefer was born in Ulster county, New York, March 2, 1863, and is a son of Adam and Wilhelmina (Smith) Shaefer, who were the parents of six children, as follows: John, deceased; Adam, deceased; Mrs. Mary Hailey, deceased; John M., subject of this review; Leonard M., whose biography is given in this volume; George, twin brother of Leonard, deceased. The reader is referred to the biography of Leonard M. Shaefer for further details concerning the lives of Simon and Wilhelmina Shaefer. John M. Shaefer was educated in the district schools, and was reared on the Shaefer home farm in Nemaha county since he was six years old. When he was twenty-six years old, he became heir to the northwest quarter of section 26 in Home township, and has made his home thereon since that time. He has improved this tract with a good home of eight rooms and other buildings in keeping with a well defined plan of locating his farm buildings.

In 1889, he set out an orchard of two acres which, when it came into bearing, was one of the finest and most prolific in Nemaha county. He made exhibits of his fine apples and peaches at Centralia, and people came from far and near to buy the products of his orchard in season. During the last great drought in Kansas, many of the trees died, or were so badly injured that they have ceased bearing. He also set out a beautiful grove of shade trees, which add to the attractiveness of the surroundings, and give a grateful shade on the hot summer days. Mr. Shaefer keeps well bred Durham cattle and Duroc Jersey hogs, and also has some fine Norman horses. He is a shareholder of the Farmers Elevator Company of Centralia.

Mr. Shaefer was married, in 1889, to Octavia Jessee, a daughter of

George T. and Laura J. (Buckles) Jessee. She was born in Russell county, Virginia, November 18, 1869. Her parents were early settlers of Nemaha county, and came to this county in 1880. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Shaefer, as follows: George E., born July 31, 1892, a graduate of the Centralia High School, and now bookkeeper for the Pueblo, Colo., Electric Light and Power Company; Lillian, born November 28, 1894, graduated from the Centralia High School, pursued a course in music at Pueblo, Colo., in 1914, and has taught music in her home district—she also taught a term of school in Harrison township in 1913; Grace E., born January 18, 1901, attends school at Centralia; Mattie, was born September 10, 1904.

Mr. Shaefer is a standpat Republican who thoroughly believes in Republican principles, and is interested in his party's success at the polls. He has been road supervisor, and is now a member of the school board of district No. 73. He is affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and the Odd Fellows of Centralia.

**George A. Magill**, cashier of the State Bank of Kelly, Kans., was born November 24, 1886, in Brown county, Kansas, and is a son of James D. and Ida E. (Shiffer) Magill, pioneer settlers of Nemaha county, who were among the first to come to Nemaha county. James D. Magill was born in Platte county, Missouri. His parents came to Kansas from Missouri in 1856. He homesteaded 160 acres of land one mile north of Capioma, Nemaha county. The family drove from Missouri to the Kansas homestead with ox wagons and James D. broke up the first land on his farm with oxen. The family first resided in a log cabin, which served as the family domicile for a number of years. James D. Magill served as trustee of Capioma township and was elected district clerk of Nemaha county in 1898, and held the office until his demise in 1900. James D. and Ida E. Magill were the parents of seven children, as follows: Millie, wife of C. V. Williams, a veterinary surgeon of Frankfort, Kans.; Blanche, wife of Frank L. Geary, a banker of Seneca, Kans.; Mrs. Bessie Britt, whose husband is a barber located in Seneca, Kans.; Mrs. Alice Hayner, Elm, Wyo.; George A., with whom this review is concerned; Frank, operating a lumber and grain business at Victor, Kans.; Paul, a farmer living in Richmond township.

When George A. Magill was twelve years old his parents removed to Seneca and he attended the public schools for four years after the family located in the city. When sixteen years of age he entered the employ of Thompson & Wempe as clerk in their general merchandise store. He remained with this firm for five years and then pursued a course in bookkeeping and commerce at Central Business College, Kansas City, Mo., for six months. For one year thereafter he was employed on an Idaho ranch. In December, 1908, he returned to Seneca and became bookkeeper of the National Bank of Seneca, and served in this capacity until 1909. He then took charge of the State Bank of Kelly. Mr. Magill is likewise a shareholder and director of this bank

and the prosperity of the institution is sufficient evidence of his ability to conduct its affairs in the interest of both patrons and stockholders.

Mr. Magill was united in marriage with Miss Emily Scrafford in 1910. Mrs. Magill was born February 26, 1887, in Adams township, Nemaha county, a daughter of Frank M. and Eva (Alexander) Scrafford, who formerly resided in Nemaha county, but are now located on a farm in North Dakota. Mrs. Magill is a graduate of the Seneca High School and taught school for three years previous to her marriage.

Mr. Magill takes an active part in county affairs and is usually found in the forefront of community undertakings. He is a member of the County Fair Association and is a Republican in politics. He is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, No. 39, of Seneca, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, No. 60, of Seneca, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, No. 570, of Kelly, Kans.

**Bert G. Cole**, grain dealer and merchant of Kelly, Kans., is one of the live wires of his city, and has filled the office of postmaster of Kelly for four years. He was born in Brownsville, Cass county, Michigan, January 10, 1880, and is a son of Milton J. and Etta (Lee) Cole. Milton J. Cole was born in New York State in 1860, went from his native State to Michigan where he remained until 1882, and then migrated to Kansas, locating on a farm near Kelly in Nemaha county. The mother of Bert G. Cole was born in Michigan, and is now residing in Wetmore, aged fifty-two years. The father died in July, 1912. Milton G. Cole and wife were the parents of the following children: Bert G.; Donald, an automobile salesman at Wetmore; Maud, wife of Dr. Searles, residing in Wetmore; Mrs. Zelpha Cawood, wife of a leading merchant of Wetmore.

Bert G. Cole received his primary education in the district school, and accompanied his parents to Kansas, where he assisted his father in cultivating the farm until he began life for himself. In 1898, he pursued an engineering course in the agricultural college at Manhattan, Kans., and then returned to the home farm. He located on a farm owned by his father near Kelly, and in partnership with his father and brother, operated a livery business in Goff and Wetmore. He later engaged in farming until 1909, and then located in Kelly, where he became manager of Denton & Kuhn Commission Company's grain elevator. Mr. Cole has lately engaged in the automobile business in the capacity of auto salesman, and has handled considerable real estate.

Mr. Cole's first marriage was in 1903 with Miss Ella Drager of Illinois township, Nemaha county. She was born in 1882, and died in 1904, leaving one child, Iscah, with grandparents at Waterville, Kans. His second marriage occurred in 1909 with Kathrine Stoldt, born in Adams township, Nemaha county, a daughter of George and Minnie (Jordan) Stoldt, natives of Germany. The Stoldts were early settlers in Nemaha county. George, the father of Mrs. Cole, is deceased, and the mother resides with Mrs. Cole at Kelly.

Mr. Cole is a Republican, and has taken a more or less active part in

political affairs in his town and county, being considered one of the leaders of the G. O. P. in Nemaha county. In 1911, he was appointed postmaster of Kelly, and served for four years, until his Democratic successor was appointed. Mr. Cole is a member of the Kelly Lodge of Odd Fellows, and is a past grand chancellor of this lodge.

**Abram Funk**, carpenter and builder, and Union veteran, of Kelly, Kans., might aptly be called the "Father of Kelly," inasmuch as he started and operated the first general store in the town in 1887. Mr. Funk was born January 6, 1847, in Putnam county, Ohio, a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Hampshire) Funk, natives of Virginia and Ohio, respectively. Henry Funk was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, November 27, 1808, and became a farmer, removing to Putnam county, Ohio, where he died in 1887.

Abram Funk was reared on the pioneer farm in Putnam county, Ohio, attended the district school of his neighborhood and enlisted in the Union army. His enlistment took place in May, 1863, at Lima, Ohio, in Company F, in the One Hundred and Fifty-first Ohio regiment, and served until his discharge in August, 1863. He was in service in the environs of Washington, D. C., and at Fort Bayard contracted measles, from which he was laid up for a time. After his war service, Mr. Funk learned the carpenter trade, and about 1867 began to take building contracts on his own account. In 1870 he bought a farm in Putnam county, Ohio, which he cultivated for ten years, then sold out and came to Kansas. His first settlement in Kansas was in Nemaha county, six miles south of Sabetha, where he bought 160 acres of partly improved land in 1880. He sold this tract in 1881 and bought 240 acres near Kelly, in Adams township. This farm was poorly improved at the time of purchase and he erected the necessary buildings and changed the appearance of things, being enabled to sell out at a good profit in 1887. He then went to western Kansas, but returned to Kelly within a year and started the first general store in this village. Six months later he disposed of his business and has since devoted himself to carpentering and contract work. During past years Mr. Funk has been kept fairly busy at his trade and has erected several structures in Kelly and around the country side.

Abram Funk was married in 1869 in Allen county, Ohio, to Elizabeth Clevenger. This union has been blessed with the following children: Mrs. Edna Blackwell, living in Delta county, Colorado; Lowell, a teacher in Centralia, Kans., and graduate of the State Normal School at Emporia, Kans.; Grace, who has taught in the Seneca Public Schools for the past twelve years; Russell C., a practicing dentist at Lemoore, Cal., and graduate of the Western Dental College of Kansas City, Mo. One child died at the age of four years. Mrs. Funk was born August 29, 1850, in Allen county, Ohio, a daughter of I. H. and Lucinda (Ford) Clevenger, natives of New England.

Mr. Funk is progressive in his political views and is a member of

the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Corning Lodge, No. 13. He is tolerant in his religious views and while an attendant at religious worship, is not a member of any denomination. Mr. Funk is a citizen who believes in the "Golden Rule" as applied to a man's behavior, and is living an honest, upright and industrious life. It is to his everlasting credit as a citizen and father that he has given all of his children every advantage possible in the attainment of a good education.

**Barney Wichman.**—One of the most attractive and best improved farms in Nemaha county, Kansas, is that of Barney Wichman of Mitchell township. This farm consists of 250 acres, is well fenced, and has excellent buildings. When Mr. Wichman took possession of the place in 1895, the improvements were of a negligible quantity, but the place now is a fine indication of the thrift and enterprise of its owner. In 1904, Mr. Wichman erected a fine nine room farm residence, painted cream color, modern in every respect and heated with a hot air furnace. This home, with its cluster of attractive farm buildings, sits well back from the roadway in the midst of well kept grounds. The following year he built a large barn 50x56 feet in extent, attractively painted in red and white.

Barney Wichman was born in Oldenburg, Germany, April 13, 1867, and is a son of John Casper and Josephine (Bokin) Wichman, who were the parents of six children, as follows: Barney, the eldest of the family, and concerning whose life career this review is written; Henry, a farmer of Richmond township; Joseph, deceased; Clements, of Richmond township; Elizabeth and Josephine, deceased. John Casper Wichman was born in Germany in 1835, married in Germany and immigrated to America in 1883 and, after a six months' residence in Cincinnati, Ohio, he came west and settled in Nemaha county, Kansas. He first settled in Marion township, but later removed to Mitchell township. He died in Richmond township in 1899, at the home of his son, Clements. His wife, Josephine, was born in 1834, and died in her native land in 1871.

Barney Wichman left his native land in 1887 and came to America. He was employed in an undertaking establishment in Cincinnati, Ohio, until 1892. He then came west and settled in Nemaha county, Kansas, where he rented land in Marion township for three years. His three years of renting proved profitable and he was enabled to buy 160 acres of land in section eight, Mitchell township, in 1895. He has since increased his acreage to 250 acres and made the improvements on his land as stated in the preceding paragraph. Mr. Wichman keeps considerable live stock on his farm and is thus enabled to market the production of his plant in the most economical and profitable manner, while insuring the continued fertility of his broad acres.

He was married in 1893 to Miss Mary Stueve and this union has resulted in the birth of the following children: Benjamin, Harry, Louis, August, Joseph, Elizabeth, Anna, Rosa, Francis. The mother of these children was born in Oldenburg, Germany in 1865, and left her native land in 1887. She settled in Cincinnati, and there met and was

wooded by Barney Wichman—the marriage resulting has been a happy and prosperous one, and Mrs. Wichman deserves a considerable measure of praise for the success of her husband.

Mr. and Mrs. Wichman and their children are members of the Catholic Church and contribute of their means to the support of this denomination. They take part in the many social doings of the church and are highly respected citizens of the county.

**Robert M. Bronough**, one of the oldest pioneers of Nemaha county and a prominent and progressive business man at Baileyville, Kans., has made a conspicuous success of his life career and his business, which is that of furniture dealer in his home city. Mr. Bronough comes of a family which figures prominently in the early history of Nemaha county and Kansas. His father was Thomas Bronough, born in Kentucky in 1805, and reared in his native State, living there until he removed to Illinois in 1830. He lived in Illinois until he followed his older sons to Kansas in 1859, at which time he drove out to Nemaha county with a train of three wagons and settled on a homestead three miles south of the present site of Baileyville. He broke up the ground for his farm and cultivated it for a number of years. In his old age he made his home with his son, Robert M., after the death of his wife, and he enjoyed living to a good old age of eighty years, respected and loved by all who knew him. His death occurred in 1884. During the earlier years of his life, Thomas Bronough filled the office of county assessor of Nemaha county, to which office he was elected in 1866. Seven deputies were employed under him and he was the last county assessor to serve before the law provided for township assessors. His son, Robert, was his chief deputy and assisted in changing the tax roll from the alphabetical to the numerical order, thus getting all the taxable land on the county tax rolls.

Thomas Bronough married Mary Rollins, born in Kentucky in 1811, and departed this life in 1875. Thomas and Mary Bronough were parents of eight children, as follows: Eliza, deceased, wife of O. C. Bruner, former county treasurer; Tolliver, Union war veteran, a member of Company E, Thirteenth Kansas regiment of volunteers, coming to Kansas in 1857, dying in Arkansas in 1911; James T., came to Kansas in 1858, and was a well known farmer near Kelly, Kans., dying in 1897; Mrs. Lucy Gilliland, living near San Diego, Cal., with a widowed daughter; Virginia, wife of Thomas D. McGatagan, formerly lived near Frankfort, Kans., and lived in Oklahoma and California, dying in California; Sarah, died at the age of ten years in Illinois; Mary, died at the age of seventeen years, in 1867; Mrs. Elvira McBradley, living in Baileyville.

Robert M. Bronough was born May 6, 1844, in Schuyler county, Illinois. He came to Kansas with his parents in 1859, and he attended the Centralia schools in his boyhood days. At the outbreak of the Civil war, he answered the call to arms and enlisted in Company E, Thirteenth Kansas infantry, and saw much active service in the South and on the frontier. He took part in the battle of Prairie Grove,



ROBERT M. BRONOUGH AND FAMILY.





Ark., and served in Arkansas, Indian Territory and the Red River valley country and was engaged in many minor conflicts during the course of his war service. He was mustered out of the service at Little Rock, Ark., in 1865, and received his honorable discharge on June 26, 1865. From Little Rock he accompanied his regiment to St. Louis via the Mississippi river route, and thence to Leavenworth, where the troops were paid off. From there they came by stage to Weston, Mo., and then boarded the Kansas City, St. Joseph & Council Bluffs railroad and rode to Atchison, Kans. After stopping at the old Massasoit Hotel over night, he and some of his comrades paid a fare of \$12 each for transportation to Seneca via the Holliday stage route. After his return home he worked on his father's farm until 1898 and then located in Baileyville, where he engaged in business for himself and dealt extensively in hardware, furniture and lumber for a number of years, but of late he has conducted a furniture store exclusively. At one time, when living on the farm, Mr. Bronough achieved considerable success as a breeder and shipper of Shorthorn cattle. He is a shareholder and vice-president of the Baileyville Bank, of which ex-Governor Bailey is president. In the year 1866-1867, Mr. Bronough, with J. W. Fuller, who was county clerk at the time, changed the tax roll from alphabetical to the numerical order, as provided by law.

Robert M. Bronough was married on September 12, 1866, to Miss Mary J. Cassidy, who was born in Ohio, September 12, 1845. She was a daughter of John and Eliza (Paulman) Cassidy, natives of Ohio, who immigrated to Kansas in 1865. There were four children born to this marriage, as follows: John, farmer, Center township; Mrs. Olive Griffith, Baileyville; Mrs. Laura Bigelow, deceased; Thomas C., Kansas City, Mo.

Mr. Bronough is in sympathy with the Democratic party and casts his vote for its nominees. He is active in religious affairs of his community and is a trustee of the Presbyterian church. He holds membership in the Odd Fellows fraternal order and, because of his Civil war career, he is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic Post, Seneca, Kans., and a member of the Kansas State Historical Society.

**Joseph Schumacher**, merchant, Kelly, Kans., was born in Damme, Germany, November 11, 1875, and is a son of Edward and Bernardina (Bergmann) Schumacher, natives of Germany. The father of Joseph Schumacher was a wagon maker in the Fatherland and both parents died in Germany.

Mr. Schumacher was reared and educated in Germany until he was thirteen years old and then emigrated from his native land to America. He first worked for his uncle, Barnard Bergmann, at St. Benedict's, and was employed on his uncle's farm for a time previous to taking employment in the general store owned by Clements Blocker at St. Benedict's. He remained at St. Benedict's until 1905 and then came to Kelly, where he farmed for two years in the nearby country. He was next employed in the general store owned by Dignan & Haug, and in

1906 he purchased the business in partnership with Mr. Ketter. Mr. Schumacher is a good, careful business man and the store in his charge is doing a prosperous business, which exceeds \$12,000 annually. Fortune has smiled upon Mr. Schumacher and he is the owner of 160 acres of good land in Adams township.

Mr. Schumacher was married November 19, 1903, to Miss Susan Kongs, of St. Benedict's. Mr. and Mrs. Schumacher are the parents of three children, as follows: Alvin, Cyril and Leanord. The mother of these children was born at St. Benedict's, April 7, 1884, a daughter of Michael and Mary (Rettele) Kongs, natives of Germany and Wisconsin, respectively. Mrs. Kongs is now living among her children.

Mr. Schumacher is an independent in political matters and is a member of the Kelly Catholic Church. He is also affiliated with the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association.

**Theodore Rosengarten.**—Theodore Rosengarten, farmer and stockman, of Mitchell township, was born in Hanover, Germany, February 18, 1854, a son of William and Mary Rosengarten, who reared a family of three children of whom Theodore is the only one now living. Both parents died in their native land. Theodore lived in Germany until 1880, and then crossed the ocean to find fortune in America. He first located in the St. Benedict neighborhood of Nemaha county, Kansas, and bought 80 acres of land for which he paid \$25 an acre. He sold this same farm for \$45 an acre in 1902 and then bought his present home farm of 160 acres in Mitchell township, upon which he has made many substantial improvements and has prospered. Mr. Rosengarten favors the Durham breed of cattle and has some very fine animals on his place.

Mr. Rosengarten was married in 1883 to Mary Tichlofen, who has borne him the following children: Henry, married to Florence Brinkler, and resides in Seneca; Frank, who took to wife May Hoops, lives in Seneca and has one child, Carmelita; Minnie, wife of J. Brinkler, a farmer living near Seneca, and has one child, Gerald; Edward married Cecilia Nash, is farming the home place and has one child, Edna. The mother of these children was born at Waterford, Wis., June 25, 1857, and is a daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Honeymann) Tichlofen, natives of Germany. Henry Tichlofen was born in Westphalia, Germany, in 1830, and learned the carpenter's trade. He emigrated from the Fatherland in 1854, and settled in Racine county, Wisconsin. From there he came to Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1875, and worked at his trade of carpenter in Seneca until he purchased a farm of 80 acres in Richmond township for which he paid \$8.00 an acre. He farmed his land until his retirement in 1902, and is now making his home with Mrs. Rosengarten. He was married in Wisconsin to Elizabeth Honeymann in 1843, and who died in 1902. The mother of Mrs. Rosengarten was born in Germany and left her native country and came to America when she was twelve years old. Mr. and Mrs. Tichlofen were the parents of eight children of whom Mrs. Rosengarten is the eldest. These children are: Mrs. Elizabeth Rosen-

garten, wife of the subject; Henry, a farmer living near Junction City, Kans.; Mrs. Ida Underwood, Omaha, Neb.; Julius, of Kansas City, Mo.; Rose, wife of J. Donnelly, Philadelphia, Pa.; Mrs. Elizabeth Kirk, Kansas City, Kans.; Mrs. Lydia Noland, Solomon, Kans.; John, deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Rosengarten are members of the Catholic church and contribute of their means to the support of this denomination. Mr. Rosengarten has served as road supervisor of Mitchell township, and has filled the post of clerk of school district No. 65.

**William Gerkens.**—William Gerkens, merchant of St. Benedict's, Nemaha county, Kansas, was born in Westphalia, Prussia, German Empire, October 2, 1858, and is a son of Joseph and Angela (Entpohler) Gerkens, natives of the fatherland, and who reared a family of five children, as follows: Frank, living in Germany and who served in the Austro-German War of 1866 and the Franco-Prussian War, 1870-1871; Henry, living in Germany; Mrs. Elizabeth Brock, Germany; William, the subject of this review; Mrs. Anna Attens, living on a farm near Baileyville, Kans.

Joseph Gerkens was born in Westphalia, Prussia, in 1811, and was a son of John Gerkens, who was a farmer. Joseph became a shepherd, and died in 1892. The mother of William Gerkens was born in 1819, and was a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Evro) Entpohler, the former of whom was a school teacher in Germany. She died in 1876.

William Gerkens left his native country August 31, 1881, and made his way across the seas and the United States to Dubuque county, Iowa, where he found employment as farm hand for three years, beginning with \$180 for the first year and eventually receiving \$205 for his second and third years of service. Wishing to see the country to the westward he set out and traveled for a time and then returned to Iowa, where he outfitted himself as a traveling merchant, with a horse and wagon. Until 1888 he traveled over the greater part of Iowa in a nomadic manner, retailing his wares at the farm houses by the wayside, and resting where night found him. In 1888 he made up his mind to locate in Texas, but on the way through Kansas and he became discouraged over the appearance of the country in the southern part of Kansas, and gave up that idea and came to St. Benedict's, from where he again traveled over the country retailing dry goods and notions.

In 1889, with a stock of goods valued at about \$200, he started a general merchandise store at St. Benedict's, and during the years that have passed he has prospered and is now comfortably well off in this world's goods. His little stock of goods has grown during the years until he now carries a stock worth \$3,000 and has a steady, substantial trade among the people of this vicinity.

Mr. Gerkens was married in 1889 to Bernadina Sturve, born in Stein-felt, Oldenburg, Germany, in 1851. She came to St. Benedict's with her mother in 1882. Both parents of Mrs. Gerkens are dead, her mother having departed this life in 1894. One child has blessed this happy marriage, namely, Mary, born March 17, 1891.

Mr. Gerkens is a Democrat in politics and he and his wife and daughter are members of St. Benedict's Catholic Church. Mr. Gerkens' hobby is the breeding and raising of St. Bernard, Hartz Mountain Canary birds, and he understands perfectly how to raise the feathered songsters, which he loves so well.

**Henry B. Nichols.**—The late Henry B. Nichols, of Seneca, Kans., was one of the best known and best loved men of the pioneer and latter days in Nemaha county. Forty and more years ago the Nichols home, east of Seneca, was famed for its hospitality and was looked upon as a stopping and resting place for the settlers who were then coming into the county. The welcome which strangers would receive from Mr. and Mrs. Nichols would go a long way toward making their new neighbors from far lands feel at home in Kansas. Henry B. Nichols was a gentleman of the old school whose education and attainments fitted him for the role which he played in the life of his adopted community, and it was said of him shortly after his demise, by one who knew him well: "He was a kind man whose example I would wish my children to follow." What a tribute!

Henry B. Nichols was born on a farm near Clyde, Ohio, February 22, 1843, and was a son of Henry and Harriet (Bemis) Nichols, the former a native of Vermont and the latter a native of Canadice, N. Y. The Nichols family is one of the old families of America, of Welsh ancestry, and whose members were allied with the Quaker church at the beginning of that faith. Henry B. Nichols was yet a boy when the call came from President Lincoln for troops with which to quell the rebellion of the Southern States. He responded and enlisted in Company K, One Hundredth Ohio infantry, during the first year of the great war and served throughout the conflict. He enlisted under Col. Rutherford B. Hayes, who later became President of the United States.

In one of the great battles in which his regiment participated, Mr. Nichols was wounded in the left shoulder and taken prisoner by the Confederates, who placed him in durance in the famous Belle Isle prison just across the river from Libby. Before being captured he contrived to make a sling for his wounded arm, and under this sling he hid a small sum of money, which he intended to send home for emergency. This money was overlooked when he was searched by his captors, and by his telling the guard he was badly wounded, they let him pass without a thorough search of his person. After his exchange, and he had regained his health, he again returned to the battlefields of the South with his regiment and was again wounded, this time being shot through both legs, the wound incapacitating him for further service for some time. After his marriage in 1865, Mr. Nichols farmed in Ohio until his removal to Kansas in 1871. He settled on a farm one and one-half mile east of Seneca and developed it into a fine property now known as the Mat Schneider farm. He followed the vocation of agriculturist until his retirement to a home in Seneca in 1893. His demise occurred January 21, 1909.



HENRY B. NICHOLS.



MRS. H. B. NICHOLS.



Henry B. Nichols was married on December 12, 1865, to Mildred M. Brush, and one child has blessed this union, Miss Allie R. Nichols, born March 28, 1875, on the family farm in Richmond township, and now residing in Seneca. Miss Nichols is the owner of a fine farm of 160 acres and maintains the old Nichols home in Seneca. Mrs. Mildred (Brush) Nichols was born near Clyde, Ohio, December 29, 1846, and died April 18, 1911.

This well respected and highly esteemed couple left behind them an example of right living and usefulness that is well worth emulation by the rising generation. Both attended the Congregational church, of which Miss Nichols is a member, and she is also connected with the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Henry B. Nichols was a Republican during his whole life, but never sought political preferment. He was an influential member of the Seneca Grand Army of the Republic Post, of which he was commander. With him, kindness and hospitality was a virtue and bred within him; he died full of honors and honored and respected by all who knew him as a good and worthy citizen.

**John T. Pugh.**—John T. Pugh, the efficient superintendent of the Nemaha county Poor Farm, was born on a farm in Fayette county, Illinois, February 5, 1863, and is a son of William W. and Elizabeth (Denton) Pugh. William W. Pugh was born in Tennessee, December 9, 1829, and removed with his parents to Illinois when a youth. He was reared on the Illinois farm and learned to till the soil under his father's tutelage. In 1875 the Pugh family left Illinois and migrated to Wilson county, Kansas, and later moved to a farm near Perry, Okla., where William W. died in 1903. In his younger days he was a school teacher in Illinois and was a well read man. William W. and Elizabeth Pugh were the parents of the following children: John T., with whom this review is concerned; Edward, a hardware merchant located in Oregon; Mrs. Mary Watkins, living on a farm near Goff, Kans.; William M., Beloit, Kans.; Mrs. Anna Reeves, Wichita, Kans.; one child died in infancy. The mother of these children was born in 1840 in Fayette county, Illinois, and departed this life November 8, 1878. Mr. and Mrs. Pugh were members of the Christian church and at the time of his demise, William W. Pugh was the owner of a fine farm of 160 acres of land.

John T. Pugh was reared to manhood on his father's farm in Wilson county, and received a district school education. When he attained his majority he rented a farm in Wilson county, Kansas, which he cultivated until 1890, and then came to Nemaha county. He first rented land in Adams township. He was appointed in 1913 to the position of superintendent of the county farm of 200 acres by the county commissioners of Nemaha county. At the present writing there are eight wards of the county in the home under Mr. Pugh's charge.

Mr. Pugh was married in 1883 to Miss Viola McClure, who has borne him the following children: Mrs. Audie Stone, living in Oregon; Mrs. Effie Heinen, of Adams township; Carl, a farmer in Center township;

Orpha, deceased. Mrs. Pugh was born September 11, 1865, in Fulton county, Indiana, a daughter of Robert and Esther (Hickman) McClure, early settlers of Wilson county, Kansas.

Mr. Pugh is a Republican in politics and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. Since taking charge of the County Farm he has given evidence of decided ability to successfully manage the farm and has the confidence of the county commissioners and the people of Nemaha county in general.

**Rev. Father Gregory Neumayr.**—Rev. Father Gregory Neumayr, O. S. B., pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church, St. Benedict's, Kans., was born at Munich, Germany, 1866, and attended the schools of his native city. He began his studies for the priesthood in 1879, at the Benedictine Seminary, of Scheuern, Germany. When he attained the age of eighteen years he immigrated to America, and in 1883 he was admitted to membership in the Benedictine Order at Atchison, Kans.

Father Gregory was ordained for the priesthood in 1891, and his first parish work was at the Straubb Settlement near Avoca, Neb. His next charge was at Burlington, Iowa, after which he became assistant in the church at Atchison, Kans. In 1895 he was sent to Purcell, Kans., and had charge of the erection of a church at that place. He remained at Purcell for two years, and in 1910 took charge of the Effingham, Kans., Catholic Church. He remained at Effingham until September 13, 1914, when he was given the pastorate of St. Mary's Church at St. Benedict, Kans.

**Emil J. Jonach, Jr.**, merchant, Kelly, Kans., is a native Kansan. He was born on a farm near Woodlawn, Nemaha county, October 10, 1883, and is a son of Emil J. and Martha (Laughlin) Jonach, natives of Germany. Emil Jonach, Sr., was born at Frankenhäusen, Germany, February 22, 1833, and followed the trade of barber in his native land, and also studied medicine. He emigrated from the Fatherland in 1850 and first lived in New York City where he conducted a barber shop until 1856. When Kansas was opened for settlement in the early fifties, he was among the first to come to the new State and, in 1856, made a settlement in Capioma township. He homesteaded 160 acres of land and broke up his land with horses. As the years passed and prosperity smiled upon Mr. Jonach, he accumulated a total of 780 acres of land in the county, and retired from active farm work in 1901. He has been one of the prominent citizens of his township and, being a well read man, has been called upon by the citizens, to serve as a justice of the peace and as a member of the school board. He makes his residence in Capioma township, and among his children. Mr. Jonach served his country in the Union army, and saw service on the frontier during the Indian troubles. His wife, Martha, was born in Indiana.

Emil J. Jonach, Jr., was reared to young manhood on his father's farm, and was educated in the district school of his neighborhood. In 1908, he bought 160 acres of land in Capioma township, and farmed it in



partnership with his brother, Charles, until 1911, when he sold the farm to his father, and engaged in the merchandise business in Kelly. Mr. Jonach has been very successful in his business, and is one of the live business men of the hustling town of Kelly.

Mr. Jonach, Jr., was married, in 1910, to Miss May Barnett, and this union has been blessed with one child, namely: Emil J., Jr., born January 21, 1912, in Kelly. Mrs. Jonach was born February 14, 1890, in Brown county, Kansas, and was reared in Nemaha county. She is a well educated lady, and taught school for two years in this county. Her parents, O. G. and Mary R. (Miller) Barnett, are natives of Illinois, and were early settlers in Kansas. They reside on a farm south of Oneida, Kans.

Mr. Jonach is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mrs. Jonach belongs to Eastern Star Lodge No. 357 of Seneca, Kans.

**Bernard Bergmann.**—Bernard Bergmann, retired farmer, St. Benedict, Kans., was born in Oldenburg, Germany, March 11, 1853, and is a son of Franz A. and Mary A. (Haskamp) Bergmann, who were the parents of nine children, three of whom are living in America. Franz Bergmann was born in 1816, and became a sailor and fisherman. For three years he served in the German army, and in 1880 he immigrated to America, first settling in Iowa, where he farmed with his children, who had preceded him to this country, namely: Bernard, Joseph, and Clements. The elder Bergmann remained in Iowa until 1897, and then came to Seneca, Kans., where he died January 31, 1901. His wife was born in Germany in 1821 and died near St. Benedict's parish at the home of her son, Frank, on January 28, 1904.

Bernard Bergmann, subject of this review, attended the schools of his native land, learned the trade of cigar maker and worked in a cigar factory in Germany until 1872. He then immigrated to America and farmed for ten years in Iowa, coming to Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1882. He bought 80 acres of land in Clear Creek township upon which a small shanty had been built. He at once set about putting up good improvements, and erected a comfortable two story house, and a barn 44x54 feet in dimensions. Mr. Bergmann became a breeder of Standard Percheron horses and mammoth Jacks, which he exhibited with considerable success at the county fairs. He made a success of his farming operations and his live stock breeding and as the years passed he added to his possessions until he became the owner of 240 acres of well improved land, in addition to giving his son a fine farm of 160 acres, comprising the home place. Mr. Bergmann retired in 1906, and moved to St. Benedict's, where he erected a fine two story modern home, which is easily the finest residence in the village.

Mr. Bergmann was married to Caroline Lange, in Iowa, in 1878, and to this marriage have been born six children, as follows: Mrs. Mary Huesling, wife of J. Huesling, born December 18, 1879, died

May 15, 1904, born at New Vienna, Iowa, and died at St. Benedict's; Kathrine, wife of George Heiman, Marion township, born November 28, 1880, and died in St. Joseph's Hospital, March 10, 1910; Frank, farming the home place of the Bergmanns, married Dena Hulsing; Lena, wife of Frank Melcher a farmer and large land owner, of Richmond township (see sketch); Johanna, wife of Henry Engelken, Richmond township; Lawrence, married Ernestina Skoch, and lives on the Bergmann farm in Clear Creek township. The mother of this fine family was born in June, 1854, in Steinfelt, Oldenburg, Germany, a daughter of Herman Henry and Catherine (Olberding) Lange, and left her native land with her father in 1885 and settled in Iowa. She departed this life October 18, 1899, and is now buried in St. Benedict's cemetery. She was a good and faithful helpmate to Bernard Bergmann, and a kind and wise mother to her children.

The Bergmann family are all members of the Catholic church. Mr. Bermann is a Democrat who is quite influential in the affairs of his party in Nemaha county. He served as clerk and road supervisor of Richmond township, and filled other positions with credit to himself and the people. The career of this splendid American citizen of German birth is a striking and forceful example of what is frequently accomplished in this land by members of this sturdy and industrious race. When he arrived in this country he was just a poor German emigrant boy who had paid for his passage across the seas by many days of hard labor in the fields. By means of tireless industry, economy, foresight, and good financial judgment he has risen to become one of the wealthy and respected citizens of Nemaha county, who takes a just and rightful pride in the fact that he is self made and owes no man for his prestige and present comfortable state of affluence.

**Bernard Henry Rottinghaus.**—The success which has attended the efforts of the average German born farmer or those of German descent in Nemaha county is, in many instances, amazing when one compares their accomplishments with those of the mass of farmers who form the population of this county. Sometimes it seems unaccountable, but the evidence of an individual success such as has been won by Bernard Henry Rottinghaus is here in Illinois township in the concrete and consists of over 400 acres of well tilled farm land, a handsome modern farm home of ten rooms, fat, sleek cattle of the best breeds, hogs, and fine horses, all accumulated during the thirty years since Mr. Rottinghaus came to America from Germany, a poor immigrant lad. He is also a stockholder and director of the Kelly State Bank.

Bernard Henry Rottinghaus was born at Oldenburg, Germany, July 30, 1861, and is a son of Henry and Mary (Bunger) Rottinghaus, who were the parents of five children, as follows: Elizabeth Von Lemden, living in Germany; Mrs. Dina Meyer, Germany; Mrs. Lizzie Kempson, Germany; Bernard H., subject of this review; a daughter died in infancy. Henry Rottinghaus, the father, was born in 1823, farmed during



BERNARD H. ROTTINGHAUS AND FAMILY.



his whole life, and died in 1881. Their mother was born in 1820, and died in 1900.

Mr. Rottinghaus received a good common school education in the Fatherland, and emigrated from his old home in 1883 in search of fortune in America. He settled in the St. Benedict neighborhood of Nemaha county, Kansas, and worked out for \$15 per month for seven years. He saved his earnings, and in 1888, he bought a farm of 110 acres in Richmond township. He improved this tract and sold it in 1902, investing the proceeds in a farm in Illinois township, which he has since increased to the large total of 440 acres. Forty acres of his land lies in Mitchell township. Mr. Rottinghaus has one of the best improved farms in Nemaha county and is constantly making improvements of a substantial nature. He erected a ten room modern home of an attractive design in 1909 at a cost of \$4,000, and has built a large granary and hay barn since coming into possession of the place. He keeps high grade stock, including Poland China hogs, Shorthorn cattle and Clydesdale horses and Percheron draft animals. On both of his farms he has a five acre orchard in bearing.

Mr. Rottinghaus was married February 12, 1890, to Anna Stegemann, who has borne him eight children, as follows: Mary, wife of Joseph Lierz, a farmer in Nemaha county; Henry, Joseph, Alvin, Anna, Frank, Emma and Dora, at home with their parents. Anna (Stegemann) Rottinghaus was born in Oldenburg, Germany, March 14, 1864, and is a daughter of Herman and Agnes (Dickmann) Stegemann. She came from Germany to St. Benedict's in 1889. Mr. Rottinghaus usually votes the Democratic ticket, but finds little time for political matters and has no ambition for office holding. He and all members of his family are devout Catholics, and are members of St. Bede's Catholic Church at Kelly, Kans.

**John G. Hulsing.**—John G. Hulsing, late of St. Benedict's, Nemaha county, Kansas, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, March 24, 1852, and was a son of George and Kathrine (Mulring) Hulsing, natives of Germany, where they were tillers of the soil. Both emigrated from their native land to America when young, located in Cincinnati, met there and were married. To them were born five children, of whom John was the eldest. The Hulsing family removed from Cincinnati to Dubuque county, Iowa, when John was a boy and he was there educated and reared to young manhood. After his marriage in 1875, he removed to Carroll county, Iowa, and farmed there until 1894, when he moved westward to Nemaha county, Kansas. He located in the town of St. Benedict's, and operated a general store in partnership with Clements Bocker for three years, then operated the store for three years on his own account, and then bought a farm of 160 acres on the outskirts of the town. He cultivated his land assiduously, used good judgment, and prospered until he became the owner of 300 acres of good farm land. His demise occurred February 27, 1913.

John G. Hulsing was married in 1875 to Mary Hoefler, and this union was blessed with the following children, namely: John, a farmer of Nemaha county, Kansas; Mrs. Kathrine Raker, living on a farm near Baileyville, Kans.; Anna, wife of Ed Koelzer, Nemaha county; Mary, at home with her mother; Dena, wife of Frank Bergmann; Henry, a farmer of Richmond township; Lizzie, wife of W. Rettele, living near Seneca, Kans.; Mrs. Clara Haug, living with her mother; Mrs. Rosa Bergmann, residing near Baileyville, Kans. Mrs. Mary Hulsing was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, July 8, 1853, and is a daughter of Garrett J. and Clara (Schaefer) Hoefler, natives of Germany, who came to Ohio from their native land when young. They were the parents of fourteen children, three of whom died in infancy. The Hoeflers also removed to Iowa where both of Mrs. Hulsing's parents died.

Mrs. Hulsing is the owner of a farm of 206 acres and is a loyal member of St. Benedict's Catholic Church.

**Frank A. Olberding.**—He of whom this chronicle treats, comes of sturdy German stock, the kind from which a large part of our successful citizens have sprung. It is a remarkable fact that among the misfits and never-do-wells very few Germans are found. Success seems to gravitate toward these thrifty people, perhaps because they are not spoiled by it, for no one ever saw a German family spoiled by too much prosperity. No matter how comfortably they are situated, they always retain their simple mode of life and refrain from all show of extravagance.

Frank A. Olberding is a typical citizen of this type. Starting out in life under the severest disadvantages, he has labored long and hard and now rests easy in the security of the income which he spent hard years in achieving. Born in Oldenburg, Germany, October 17, 1866, he started life under a different civilization. His parents were John H. and Agnes (Kruse) Olberding, to whom were born four children: Anna, married to Mr. Kohake, now dead; Henry, Clear Creek, Nemaha county, dead; Josephine, Clear Creek township, Nemaha county; Frank, of whom this sketch treats.

The father was born in Germany in 1821, and followed the occupation of farming in his native land. In middle life he immigrated to America, and brought his family to Nemaha county, Kansas, where he bought land in Clear Creek township, and farmed until the time of his death in 1900. The mother of Frank Olberding, like her husband, was born in Germany, and died there in 1873, when about forty years of age.

Frank Olberding was brought to America when a young boy and grew up on the farm, attending at the same time the district school in Clear Creek township. After completing his education, he worked at various places as a farm hand, drawing \$15 to \$20 per month. At the age of twenty-seven, he had saved enough money to buy a farm and he acquired a half section of land in Richmond township, section eighteen. The farm was poorly improved when he took possession but he has introduced modern improvements on the place and

has a well equipped farm. Besides farming, Mr. Olberding is a breeder of fine hogs and has a fine lot of Red Poland stock. He feeds one hundred hogs a year and makes a large profit out of his investment. He raises about 110 acres of corn yearly, which yields about forty bushels to the acre. In addition to his farming interests, he is a stockholder in the Seneca Farmers' Union and is counted among the influential and prominent farmers of this section of the state.

In 1894 he was married to Agnes Tangemain and to this union seven children were born: Edward, George, Lawrence, Veronica, Benedict, Agnes, Albert, all living at home. The mother of these children was born in Germany, September 12, 1875, but left there when only a year old. Her parents settled in Nemaha township, and both now live on their farm in Clear Creek township.

Mr. Olberding is an adherent to the Roman Catholic faith and belongs to the Democratic party. In his residence in America, which dates from 1883, he has shown himself a good citizen and a fine neighbor. He has completely assimilated the ideals of his adopted country, and is a credit to the Stars and Stripes. He has never sought political preferment, but has always taken a keen interest in governmental affairs. For the past two years Mr. Olberding has been driving a Studebaker "Six" automobile for which he paid \$1,300. He and his family get much enjoyment from the use of this fine machine and he finds it a convenience in his farming operations.

**Jerome McQuaid.**—Jerome McQuaid, a breeder of fine Poll-Aberdeen Angus cattle and other fancy stock, is one of the prosperous farmers and stockmen of Richmond township, Nemaha county. Mr. McQuaid was born in Nemaha county, June 5, 1877, and is a son of Peter and Elizabeth (Draney) McQuaid. The father was of Irish birth, having been born on the Emerald Isle in 1833. At the age of seventeen, Peter McQuaid left the land of the Shamrock and settled in the United States. He worked at various jobs for some time, and when the Civil War broke out he was employed by the government as a blacksmith during the years of that great struggle. When the last battle was over and the great industrial forces which supplied the army with equipment and kept it in fighting condition were disbanded, Peter McQuaid migrated to Nemaha county, Kansas, and opened a blacksmith shop in the old town of Farmington. Later he saw a good opening at Seneca, Kansas, and moved his shop to that place, where he had a fine trade. In 1873 he bought a farm near Turkey Creek in Nemaha county, and was very successful in this venture. He made numerous improvements and dealt heavily in live stock and at one time he owned 440 acres of land which he farmed until his death in 1895. Though coming from a strange land, he readily took on the American ways of thinking and became active in public affairs, taking an especially prominent part in the work of the Republican party in his district. He held the office of registrar of deeds in Nemaha county for one term and was a capable

official. He professed the Roman Catholic faith. The mother of Jerome McQuaid was a Canadian, born in 1843, and now lives in Seneca. To Peter and Mrs. McQuaid were born ten children, seven of whom are living.

Jerome McQuaid attended the district school and mastered the "three R's" with no more difficulty than the average small boy finds. He was a live boy in every sense of the word and enjoyed the farm and its attendant delights despite the irksome chores which it is the lot of all boys on the farm to perform. When he attained the age of twenty-one years, he rented land from his mother and in 1900 he bought a farm of 160 acres near the old home place. On this place he built a substantial house and barn and made numerous other improvements. He farmed the place until 1907, when he sold it and bought 333 acres of fine land in Richmond township, in sections 22 and 23, which were formerly owned by B. F. Hart. This farm is well improved and he has a fine barn and corn crib, the latter of his own construction as are other minor improvements around the place. Mr. McQuaid has 140 acres of his farm in corn, which yields fifty bushels to the acre. He also has sixty acres in alfalfa. Mr. McQuaid devotes considerable attention to his live stock, which is of excellent breed, including Polled Aberdeen Angus cattle. All graded stock on his place is of a high quality.

February 1, 1897, he was united in marriage with Ida Haug, who was born December 28, 1880, and is a daughter of August and Katharine (Selbach) Haug, natives of Germany. Mrs. Ida McQuaid was born in Nemaha county where her parents came as early settlers in the pioneer days. To this happy union, nine children were born: Cora, Sylvester, Oliver, Angela, Surilla, Marcella, Hylda, Carmelita, and a baby girl, Eveline, all living at home. Mr. McQuaid is a Republican and takes an interest in the political affairs of his community. He is an adherent of the Catholic church and is a member of the Knights of Columbus.

**John J. Smith**, farmer, Adams township, Nemaha county, Kansas, was born in Nemaha county, November 4, 1872. He is a son of Thomas and Ellen (O'Connell) Smith, natives of Ireland. Thomas Smith was born in Ireland, in 1840, and was reared in his native village. At the age of seventeen years, he started working for himself and worked in his native land until 1861 and then came to America. He located at Leavenworth and was employed by the United States Government as teamster for seven years. In 1868 he came to Nemaha county and homesteaded 160 acres of land, upon which he resided for a period of thirty years. He then retired to a comfortable home in Axtell, Kans., where he died in 1904. He and his wife, Ellen, were good Catholics, and were the parents of ten children, as follows: Mary (Sister Olivia) and Sarah (Sister Helen), Sisters of Charity in the Catholic church; Mrs. Nellie Kegan, of Baileyville, Kans., who is the mother of two children; Katie (Sister Rosaleta) in the Catholic Church; Edward, a farmer near Ax-





JOHN J. SMITH.



MRS. JOHN J. SMITH.



tell, Kans., and father of five children; John J., subject of this review; Thomas, a farmer living at Sargent, Mo., and father of seven children; Rev. Father Patrick Smith, a priest located at Blaine, Kans.; Delia (Sister Donata), a sister of the Catholic church; Mrs. Rose Waters, Topeka, Kans., mother of one child. The mother of these children was born in Ireland in 1844, and started working when ten years old. When sixteen years of age she came to America and worked as a domestic at Leavenworth until her marriage in 1868. She died in St. Francis' Hospital at Topeka, Kans., September 10, 1915.

John J. Smith was reared on his father's farm and received a district school education. He worked for his father on the home place until twenty-two years of age and then began life for himself. He first rented eighty acres of land in Clear Creek township for one year, and then rented another eighty acres and farmed it for one year. He then took charge of 160 acres of land for a year, and then rented 160 acres within three miles of Summerfield, Kans., which he cultivated for two years, after which he returned to Clear Creek township and farmed 160 acres for two years, and after farming another 190 acres for one year, he made his first land investment in 160 acres south of Seneca, which he owned for three years. He then sold out, and after a year's residence in Seneca, he bought 170 acres west of Seneca. One year later he sold this farm, and in 1909 bought his present home place of 157.25 acres in Adams township.

Mr. Smith was married April 23, 1894, to Jane Aziere, who bore him the following children: John P. and Lawrence H., at home with their father. The mother of these children was born in Nemaha county, May 1, 1876, and died in 1910. She was a daughter of Charles and Mary (Gaume) Aziere, natives of France. Charles Aziere was born in France in 1848, and was one of the early pioneers of Nemaha county, dying here in 1902. His wife, Mary, was born in France in 1846, and died in 1915. They were devout Catholics.

Mr. Smith's second marriage took place May 30, 1911, with Elizabeth, daughter of Fred and Augustina (Tanking) Guenther. Fred Guenther, her father, was born in Oldenburg, Germany, in 1856, and worked in his native country until his immigration to America in 1886. For five years he followed farming near Seneca, Kans., and was then employed in a packing house in Kansas City, Kans., for six years. For six years following he lived in Seneca; then farmed eighty acres in Adams township for seven years. He then came to Gilman township, Nemaha county, and rented 160 acres of land, in 1913. Augustina Guenther was born in Kansas, January 13, 1873, and she and Fred Guenther were married in 1890. Mr. and Mrs. Guenther have had a family of four children, as follows: John and Herman, deceased; Elizabeth, wife of John J. Smith, and Vincent. Mrs. Smith was born August 2, 1893, and was reared in Seneca, Kans. She was educated in the common schools and worked as a domestic until her marriage in 1911. Two

children have been born of this marriage: Rosalita Helen, born November 30, 1912; Sylvester Frederick, born May 5, 1916.

Mr. Smith and his family are members of the Catholic church and he is affiliated with C. M. B. A., the Knights of Columbus and the St. Joseph Society. He is allied with the Democratic party and is at present a member of the school board. Mrs. Smith is a member of the Altar Society of the Catholic church.

**George Stallbaumer.**—Among the farmers and stockmen of Richmond township who have made good at the business must be mentioned George Stallbaumer. He was born November 24, 1877, in Nemaha county. To his parents, John M. and Mary H. (Van Brook) Stallbaumer, were born eight children as follows: Charles H., deceased; Rosina, wife of Thomas Carpenter, deceased; John, living near Kelly, Kans.; Albertina, wife of Henry Welp, of Oregon; Ida, now Mrs. James Carlin, living near Frankfort, Kans.; Louisa, deceased, wife of P. J. Rettele; Edward, Marion township; George, of whom this sketch is written.

John M. Stallbaumer, father of George Stallbaumer, was born in Germany, May 17, 1835. When a young man he left the fatherland and came to America and located immediately in Nemaha county, Kansas. He died August 24, 1881, and was laid to rest in the St. Benedict's cemetery. His wife was born in Holland, August 16, 1844, and came to Nemaha county, Kansas, with her mother and settled near St. Benedict's, Kans. The long trip exhausted their resources and in the western community there was little means of earning a livelihood for one in the mother's situation. They attempted to learn the English language, but it was a slow task and their funds speedily grew smaller. Finally they were in want and not even food was to be had. So the child went out on the prairie one hot day in search of food. The intense heat made her faint and she was overcome from exhaustion and hunger and but for the protection of an umbrella, she might have fallen prostrated by the heat of the hot sun and died. She was found by neighbors and given food, and since that time has managed to keep the wolf from the door. She has lived in Seneca for the past sixteen years.

George Stallbaumer was reared on the farm and during his early years worked hard for his father. After spending his youth in the conventional way of the country boy, George decided that he wanted to be a farmer on his own account and at the age of twenty-four rented land from his mother to the extent of 115 acres. In 1900 he was married to Elizabeth Engelken, and to them eight children were born: Philomena, Cornelia, Alfred, Cyril, Hubert, Raymond, Adrian, and Cletus.

Mrs. Stallbaumer is a daughter of Herman and Anna (Schulte) Engelken, of Nemaha county. She was born October 13, 1881, in Dorchester, Allamakee county, Iowa.

Mr. Stallbaumer is a Democrat, having voted the ticket of that party for conscientious reasons for many years. He professes the faith

of the Catholic church and is known about the community for his devout and upright life.

**Henry Harpenau.**—Among the industrious farmers of Richmond township must be named Henry Harpenau, who for years has farmed with conspicuous success on his land in Nemaha county. He can be taken as a type of the German people, industrious, thrifty, alert for new opportunities, ambitious, and a self-respecting, upright citizen. They are a credit to any community and regardless of any opinions some may hold about hyphenated citizenship, a country peopled with men like Henry Harpenau and his German fellow-citizens is not in danger of decay. It is rather on the verge of a new day and of a new era of progress.

Henry Harpenau was born October 30, 1851, in Oldenburg, Germany. His parents, Henry and Mary (Trimpe) Harpenau, had one other child, Mrs. Pete Koch, of Marion township, Nemaha county.

The father was born in 1823. He spent his early life in Germany until 1871, when he came to Richmond township, Nemaha county, where he bought 120 acres of land in section 18. He farmed this successfully and later added to his holdings, and led a prosperous life as a farmer until his death in 1892. The mother of Henry died in Germany.

Henry Harpenau came to Nemaha county, Kansas, when a very young man. He attended the common schools of his native land before coming to America. When his father brought him and his younger sister to America, they settled on prairie land in Nemaha county and Henry was put to work breaking up the land while his sister kept house for her father and brother. He worked for his father until the time of his marriage in 1884, when he rented part of the farm and worked it himself. Upon the death of his father several years later, he inherited 408 acres of land which had belonged to the elder Harpenau. Henry has always been a hard working man and has taken great pride in keeping his farm in good condition, having made very extensive improvements since taking over the land. He has always kept graded stock on the farm and is always eager to show his stock to visitors who find that it compares very favorably with those of the best farms in the state.

In 1884 he was married to Lizzie Oenbring and to this union these eight children were born: Henry, living in California; Mary, Frank, Anna, Joseph, living at home; Kathrine, a sister at a convent in Atchison, Kansas; Joehanna and Louis, living at home.

Mrs. Harpenau was born March 8, 1861, in Germany, and left there in 1883, with her parents, who settled in St. Benedict's, Kans., where they engaged in farming.

Mr. Harpenau is affiliated with the Democratic party and is a member of the Roman Catholic church. He is of a retiring disposition and has no political ambitions. He is industrious and an upright citizen of his community.

**Peter H. Reed.**—Three things which have been accomplished by Peter H. Reed, of Reilly township, entitle him to honorable mention in the annals of his home county. First, he has the distinction of having been one of the youngest soldiers in the great Civil war; second, he has risen from practical poverty in his youth and early manhood to have become one of the large land owners and wealthy citizens of Nemaha county; third, he has reared one of the large families of this county, and has seen each of his children take a substantial place in his respective community. Even if he had accomplished no more than the third of these things, his place in history would have been assured. From rail splitter to large landed proprietor could be made the title of an interesting story. Peter H. Reed is a Kentuckian by birth, and is a son of George W. and Elizabeth (Hostetter) Reed, natives of the Blue Grass State.

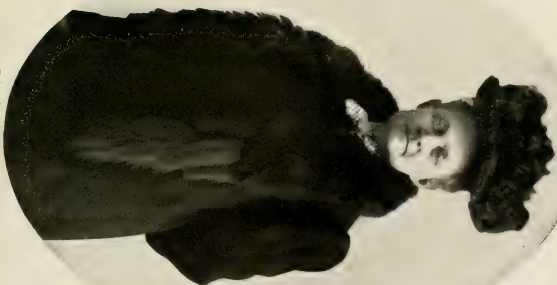
George W. Reed, his father, was born in Bath county, Kentucky, April 10, 1824, and was reared on his parents' farm. He was a well educated man and taught school in his native State for several years. He immigrated to Kansas with his family in 1887 and located in Jackson county, Kansas. He bought a small place of four and one-half acres adjoining the town of Soldier, and lived thereon for eighteen years, dying there on February 15, 1898. He filled the office of trustee of his township for two terms and had also served as sheriff of his home county in Kentucky for several years. He was a member of the Christian church, and was secretary of the Masonic lodge of Soldier, Kans.

His wife, Elizabeth, was born in Kentucky, January 29, 1826, and died November 11, 1876. George W. and Elizabeth Reed were the parents of the following children: Nancy Ellen, born July 2, 1843, and died September 11, 1871; William W., born July 26, 1846, and was a Union soldier, died February 28, 1867; Peter H., the subject of this review; Dr. Thomas M. Reed, born December 15, 1851, and died May 29, 1875; Dr. Salmon S., born May 20, 1854, and died October 18, 1912, was a physician at Soldier, Kans.; Mary Elizabeth, born December 29, 1856, and died April 1, 1875; Mrs. Emma E. Cocherell, living in Jackson county, born December 17, 1859; John L., born August 2, 1862, and died December 26, 1863.

Peter H. Reed was born in Gallatin county, Kentucky, March 26, 1849, and was reared on a Kentucky farm. When but fifteen years of age (1864) he enlisted in Company B, Fifty-fifth Kentucky infantry, and served until the close of the war. After his war service expired he remained at home and took care of his brothers and sisters as assistant to his father until he was twenty-one years old. He then rented some land, purchased an axe and split rails and cut fence posts for a living. At the time of his marriage, in 1869, he was possessed of but \$42 in cash. Since that time his fortunes have steadily risen, especially since his advent into Kansas in 1872, living first at Valley Falls, Jefferson county. He settled in Nemaha county in the fall of 1873. The first



PETER H. REED.



MRS. SARAH E. REED.





taxes which Mr. Reed paid in 1873 amounted to but \$5.03. Since that time his tax payments have gone upward until now they amount to hundreds of dollars. Mr. Reed has increased his acreage from the first modest beginning to the large total of five hundred and sixty acres in Reilly township, Nemaha county, and 360 acres in Butler county, Kansas. He is a fancier of Polled Angus cattle and maintains a herd of ninety-one head, nine of which are thoroughbred stock. He has planted twenty-five acres of alfalfa on his farm, which is well improved and highly productive.

Mr. Reed was married in 1869 to Sarah E. Hon, who has borne him twelve children, as follows: Dr. George D., a practicing physician at Williamsburg, Franklin county, Kansas; William W., a farmer in Texas; Omer, who is engaged in the hardware and lumber business at Cassoday, in Butler county, Kansas; Mrs. Emma L. Mulliken, a widow at Columbus, Kans., whose former husband was superintendent of the Cherokee county schools, and who won the gold medal in a State oratorical contest; Frances A. Cordon, living on a farm in Reilly township; Josephus, in the hardware and lumber business at Cassoday, Butler county, Kansas; Marguerite, a music teacher in California; Mrs. Nannie Rings, whose husband is an automobile man at Kansas City, Mo.; Wallace W., engaged in the hardware business in California; Thomas L., farming the home place, a graduate of the State Agricultural College at Manhattan (1913), and a successful farmer.

The mother of this large family of children was born in Kentucky August 19, 1850, and is a daughter of Daniel and Margaret (Coons) Hon, of Kentucky. Daniel Hon was born February 6, 1829, and died in his native State, September 3, 1894. He was an elder of the Christian church. Margaret, his wife, was born January 31, 1833, and still lives in Gallatin county, Kentucky. Mr. and Mrs. Hon were the parents of the following children: Sarah E., wife of the subject of this review; John, born April 29, 1853, a farmer in Kentucky; Peter, born November 3, 1854, a farmer in Kentucky; Leila, deceased; Mrs. Lucetta Spencer, born September 7, 1859, living in Kentucky; Elijah, born July 8, 1864, a farmer in Kentucky; Joseph, born March 12, 1866, a member of the Butler Manufacturing Company, of Kansas City, Mo.; Mrs. Margaret Beall, born September 13, 1869, Kentucky; Daniel, born April 26, 1873, and lives at Metcalf, Ill.; Mrs. Pearl Hendricks, born February 9, 1876, living on a farm in Kentucky.

Mr. Reed is allied with the Democratic party and has held several township offices, among them being that of school director, which he has held for twenty-five years. He and Mrs. Reed are members of the Christian church and contribute of their means to the support of this denomination. He is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He is a director of the State Bank of Soldier, Kans., and is a director of the Cassoday State Bank.

**Joseph Rettele.**—Joseph Rettele, prosperous farmer and stockman, of Richmond township, was born March 22, 1856, at Manitowoc, Wis., and is a son of Louis and Mary Magdalena (Koelzer) Rettele, who were the parents of four children, as follows: William, deceased; Joseph, the subject of this review; Mrs. Mary M. Kongs, living with her children in Nemaha county; Peter J., residing on a farm south of Kelly, Kans. Louis Rettele was born in Baden, Germany, August 26, 1826, and when eight years old immigrated with his parents to America, the family settling in Wisconsin. Louis Rettele was reared to young manhood in Wisconsin and worked out as a farm hand until 1867. He then migrated to Nemaha county with his wife and family and bought 240 acres of land in Richmond township. The family came by railroad to East Atchison, Mo., and were ferried across the Missouri river to Atchison, where they boarded a train which took them to Centralia, there being no steam railroad at that time through Seneca. The family walked from Centralia to Seneca. The lumber which was used in building of the new home was hauled from Centralia by wagon. In time Louis Rettele became well-to-do and added more land to his original farm. He died April 12, 1899. The mother of Joseph Rettele was born in the Rhine province, Germany, August 15, 1830, and died in 1881.

Joseph Rettele was eight years of age when the family settled in Nemaha county. He remembers many of the incidents of those early days and recalls vividly the hardships which the Rettele family were compelled to endure.

As a sturdy boy he helped his father break up the prairie sod on his land and recalls that during their first year in Kansas they paid \$100 for a wheat crop of twenty acres which yielded but twenty-five bushels of wheat, all told. The drought and "hoppers" took the crops. During the years of 1869 and 1870 the grasshoppers were so thick that the sun was clouded and obscured by the dense masses of the pests, and so discouraged was his father that if any one had come along and made him an offer for his land, he would have accepted it and left Kansas forever. However, the family money was all invested, locations were not easily found so suitable as the one they had, and they decided to "stick it out" and prosperity eventually smiled upon them. Joseph Rettele remained with his father and mother until their respective deaths, and he then became heir to 120 acres of land, which, added to 80 acres which had been previously deeded him, made a fine farm of 200 acres. He has spent several thousand dollars in making substantial and attractive improvements and has always been a hard and diligent worker, never spending much money for pleasure and luxuries. Mr. Rettele's sole aim in life has been to provide a comfortable home and substance for his family—and in this he has succeeded.

Joseph Rettele was married in 1879 to Miss Mary A. Stein, born January 8, 1862, at St. Benedict's, Kans., and a daughter of Mathias and Elizabeth Stein, concerning whose lives the reader is referred to the

sketch of Peter Stein, a brother of Mrs. Rettele. Nine children have been born to Joseph and Mary A. Rettele, as follows: Louis and William, farming land in Richmond township; Peter A., a farmer in Clear Creek township; Mrs. Elizabeth Haeffler, living near Paola, Kans.; Mrs. Anna Engelken, Mitchell township; Frank, deceased; Benedict, Kathrine, and Alphonse, at home with their parents.

Mr. Rettele is a Democrat but is inclined to be independent in his voting and does not wear the party yoke. He filled the post of clerk of his township. All of the Rettele family are loyal members of the Catholic church.

**John Gress.**—John Gress is one of those industrious and energetic citizens, who, though born under another flag, have since come to America and become loyal citizens and have taken their place among the substantial men of every community. He is one of the most successful farmers and stockmen in Richmond township and has been a man of good judgment in all his undertakings.

Mr. Gress was born in Bavaria, Germany, on September 1, 1860, and is a son of George and Marguerite (Saalmueller) Gress. The father was born January 2, 1809, in the province of Bavaria, where he lived until 1879, when he gave up struggling in his native land and set his eyes and hopes toward America. Arriving in this great land, he came to Wetmore, Kans., and lived with George Pfrang, a son-in-law, until John Gress, his son, rented a farm and cared for him and his mother until the father's death in 1889, which ended a long and industrious life. The mother was born October 22, 1822, and died in 1896, in Kansas City, after a short illness. She came to America the year after her husband came, as he had brought John and a daughter only with him on his journey. After reaching America and locating a home, George Gress sent for his wife. Ten children were born to this happy union, seven of whom are still living.

John Gress attended the primary schools of his native land where he familiarized himself with the rudiments of a practical education, then at an early age, he started out to work by the month. Though he was young and inexperienced, he was undaunted and his pluck and industriousness won him many friends. After four years of hard work as a farm hand, he rented farm land and made a home for his parents, who kept house for him. In 1895 he bought the eighty acre farm in Richmond township which he now tills and later bought additional land at various times until he now owns 287 acres of the best farming land in Nemaha county, Kansas. During his tenure, he has built a comfortable and substantial house on the place and has made all manner of improvements, including two barns which are well built. Mr. Gress takes especial interest in stock and is a breeder of Poland China hogs which are of the highest breed. He pays much attention to his hogs and they bring him fancy prices which well repay him for his trouble.

He was united in marriage to Barbarba Martin on March 3, 1886.

Mrs. Gress, a daughter of Valentine and Barbara Martin, was born June 3, 1865, in Bavaria, and left her native land in 1872, coming with her parents to Nemaha county, Kansas, where they farmed for many years. To this happy union nine children were born whose names are: Anna, Mt. St. Scholastica's—Sister Mercedes—O. S. B., Convent, Atchison; Helen, now Mrs. Jos. B. Kramer, Nemaha county; George, a farmer in Mitchell township, Nemaha county; Lawrence, Center township; Joseph, a farm hand; Leo, Aloysius, Wilfred, and John, living at home.

Mr. Gress is a devout member of the Catholic church. He is affiliated with the Democratic party and takes an interest in political matters, especially those of a local nature. He was at one time road overseer of Richmond township and administered the functions of his office to the satisfaction of those who elected him. Mr. Gress has been a successful farmer and is a valuable member of his community.

**Albert Swartz.**—The career of Albert Swartz, pioneer settler, former county official and extensive stockman of Reilly township, is an epitome of individual success which ranks far above the average of Kansas farmers. The large holdings of Mr. Swartz in Nemaha county will exceed 1,400 acres of farm and grazing lands. The Swartz farming operations are carried on, on an extensive scale and require the assistance of five hired farmhands to assist him in the management of the farm. The home farm of the family is well improved with a handsome nine-room residence fitted up with water and lighting systems and modern in every respect. An immense barn flanks the home and stands out on the landscape. This barn is 60x80 feet in dimensions and required a total of 56,000 shingles for the roofing. It is also protected by five lightning rods. Two large silos are kept filled with green forage for winter feeding. The Swartz place also boasts a five-acre fruit orchard and is one of the best kept and finest equipped farming plants in Kansas. Mr. Swartz maintains a total of fifty head of horses, thirty-five of which are required to do the farm work. He is a breeder of Holstein cattle and keeps fifteen head of purebreds on the farm. An itemizing of the livestock on the Swartz farm shows that there are sixty head of high-grade Durham cows, 300 head of Duroc Jersey hogs, and 160 head of prime steers fattening for the markets. Forty acres of this farm are sown to alfalfa. The parents of Albert Swartz were Henry and Mary (Shumaker) Swartz, pioneer settlers of Nemaha county, whose biographies follow:

Henry Swartz, father of Albert, was born in Germany in 1831, and began making his own way in his native land when seventeen years old. When he became of age he immigrated to America, in 1854. For a short time he made a living in New York by woodchopping and went from that State to Indiana, where he followed railroad work until 1865. This was the date of his migration to Nemaha county, Kansas, where he invested in a quarter section of land, upon which he resided until his death in 1908. Henry Swartz was a forehanded and industrious man who worked hard





MRS. HENRY SWARTZ.



HENRY SWARTZ.



ALBERT SWARTZ.



MRS. ALBERT SWARTZ.





all of his days and lived to see each and every member of his family well provided for and prosperous. He bequeathed to his adopted country a fine family of sons and daughters and accumulated a fortune in land and money during the forty or more years which he spent in Nemaha county. He was an extensive cattle raiser and feeder who believed thoroughly in the business of raising cattle for market. He accumulated over 1,000 acres of land during his remarkable career in Kansas. He was a Democrat and a member of the Lutheran church. Mr. Swartz was accompanied on the voyage across the Atlantic by his intended wife, Mary Shumaker, whom he espoused in wedlock upon his arrival at New York City. Eight children were born to this marriage, as follows: Mrs. Anna Bremer, a widow, living at Colorado Springs, Col.; Mrs. Edith Smith, Soldier, Kans.; Albert, subject of this review; Henry, proprietor of the electric light plant at Valley Falls, Kans.; William died at the age of thirty years; Mrs. Minnie Lynn, Soldier, Kans., and two children who died in infancy. The mother of the foregoing children was born in 1830 and died April 1, 1907.

Albert Swartz was born in Indiana, May 2, 1860, was reared to young manhood in Nemaha county, Kansas, and received his education in a pioneer log school house. He rented a half section of land from his father when he became of age and four years later he purchased 160 acres in Reilly township, which he farmed until his father's demise. He then bought the Swartz home place from the heirs and has improved it considerably. He has continued to buy land until he owns 1,430 acres in all, thirty acres of which is located in Florida. Mr. Swartz was married April 1, 1883 to Anna Cline, who has borne him children as follows: Mary, born April 19, 1884; Nora, born March 13, 1886, and living at St. Joseph, Mo.; Louis A., born in 1891, a farmer, living in Nemaha county; Francis H., born June 28, 1898, and Lawrence L., born August 17, 1900. The mother of these children was born in Illinois, August 25, 1859, and is a daughter of Patrick and Bridget (Reilly) Cline, natives of Ireland. Patrick Cline was born in 1839 and immigrated to America in 1855. He settled on a farm in Illinois and resided there until 1865, at which time he came to Kansas and purchased a farm of 160 acres on Coal creek, in Nemaha county, where he lived until his death, in 1903. His wife, Bridget, was born in 1830 and bore him eight children, namely: Anna, wife of Albert Swartz; Mrs. Jennie McNeill, Corning, Kans.; William, a farmer, living at Seneca, Kans.; Mrs. Rosa McNally, Oklahoma; Mrs. Josephine McDonald, Wyoming; John E., a farmer, living on Coal creek, Kansas; Mrs. Katie Girest, Los Angeles, Cal. Mr. and Mrs. Cline are devout Catholics.

Mr. Swartz has been a lifelong Democrat and is prominent in the affairs of his party in Nemaha county. He is treasurer of the local school board and has served several terms as township trustee. He has filled the post of county commissioner for two years and is a member of the Farmers' Union, of which he was one of the organizers.

**Frank F. Krapp.**—In all parts of the United States are men who are prominent in their communities, who have reached their positions of eminence through long years of laborious effort, filled with stubborn obstacles which have been overcome by sheer grit. Numerous among this worthy class are those citizens who were born under another flag and who have come to America in the hope of finding free opportunity and an equal chance with all others. All of us know many such men, some more conspicuous than others, but all deserving of the highest honor and praise. One of these men is Frank F. Krapp, who for years has lived in Richmond township where he has been remarkably successful in his vocation as a farmer and stockman. He was born in Oldenburg, Germany, March 26, 1861. His parents were Arnold A. and Catharine (Boche) Krapp. The father was born in Germany in 1810 and farmed until the year of his death, 1867. The mother was born in 1820 and died in 1865. To this union eight children were born, five of whom are living.

Frank F. Krapp attended school in his native land and worked there until 1890, when he sailed for America and came directly to Nemaha county, Kansas. He brought one thousand dollars with him as capital, but as he was new in this country and was unfamiliar with conditions here, he wisely worked out as a farm hand for several months while he was acquainting himself with the prospects and the conditions in Nemaha county. At the end of eight months he had formulated his ideas about property values and was ready to consider buying a farm. After careful investigation he bought 240 acres in Richmond township, which proved to be an excellent investment. It rapidly increased in value and in 1902 he sold it at a higher figure than was paid for it originally. He then bought the farm of four hundred acres which he now owns. It is located three-quarters of a mile east of Seneca, Kans., and is one of the most attractive places in the township. He built one of the finest modern houses in the county and it is equipped with all the modern conveniences which are regarded as so essential to comfort in the modern farmhouse. The house is painted yellow and is set in a spacious yard which is dotted with evergreen trees which give a most pleasing effect. The farm yard is extensive and is equipped with large barns, silo, and all other modern improvements. Mr. Krapp makes it his policy not to spare expense when labor-saving machinery or appliances can be installed. The watchword of his place is efficiency and he takes as much care to eliminate out-worn methods of doing things as the manager of a large business house does. In addition to his farming, Mr. Krapp is also an extensive stock raiser. He is a breeder of fine Shorthorn cattle and is now feeding 140 head of hogs. These activities are an important addition to the work of the farm and Mr. Krapp has installed modern equipment for the handling of this feeding.

In 1891 he was married to Lizzie Kramer, who was born July 23, 1872, in Oldenburg, Germany, but who left there in 1888 with her par-

ents, John Henry and Bernardine (Arling) Kramer. Eight children have been born to this happy union: Mrs. Polly Boeding, Richmond township; Joseph, living at home; Theodora, Sister Alphonsina, in convent at Atchison, Kans.; Alphonso, student at St. Benedict's College, Atchison, Kans.; Lawrence, Mary, Rosa, and Aloysius, living with their parents.

Mr. Krapp is a believer in the Catholic faith and is highly respected in his neighborhood for his upright and honorable life. He is a Democratic voter and takes an active part in the public life of Richmond township. He also belongs to the Farmers' Union, in which he is an influential member.

**John Wempe.**—John Wempe, of Seneca, Kans., is one of the most substantial business men and stock buyers of Nemaha county. He is active in all business affairs of Seneca and is a large dealer in horses and mules.

Mr. Wempe was born January 4, 1876, in Brown county, Kansas, and was the son of Clements and Agnes (Deiker) Wempe. For further details, the reader is referred to the history of Anton Wempe, an uncle of John, whose life story is written elsewhere in this volume.

John Wempe attended the district school in Brown county and later went to the public school at Seneca. In 1887 he matriculated in Campbell University, at Holton, where he took a commercial course. After the completion of his education, he returned to the farm until he was twenty-two years old when he engaged in business in Seneca, Kans. His first venture was into the coal and ice business and later he became a furniture dealer. In both of these lines he met with unusual success. However, he saw greater opportunities in stock dealing and accordingly went into that business, which later years have shown to be a wise selection. In 1911 he built the present barn at a cost of \$3,000. This is a commodious affair, 66x58 feet in size and capable of holding 80 head of stock. This is fitted with the most modern conveniences and appliances. His residence is a very attractive one, made of stucco and was built in 1913. It is modern throughout and is artistically situated. Mr. Wempe owns about two hundred acres of land, all of which is of excellent quality. He also owns stock in the Fair Association of Nemaha county and is prominent in the business undertakings of the county.

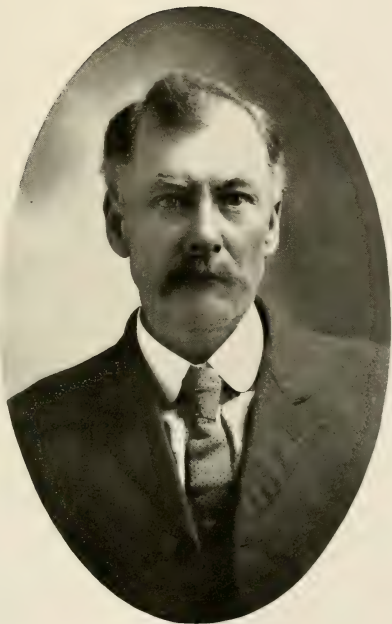
In 1908 he was married to Ellen C. Mohan, who was born July 16, 1884, in Leavenworth county, Kansas. Her father was born in Ireland, but he and his wife died when Ellen was less than two years old and she was reared by an aunt, Mrs. Dr. F. C. Creeg, of Leavenworth county. Two children, Lawrence and Kenneth, have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Wempe. Mr. Wempe is a member of the Roman Catholic Church and of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association. He votes the Democratic ticket.

**George Calhoun.**—One of the youngest veterans of the Civil war resides in Reilly township, and it was necessary for him to give his birth date at an earlier year than it was in reality in order to be accepted as a volunteer. In these days of national excitement over the predominating question of preparedness and the necessity of again arousing the patriotism of the American people to be ready to defend their country in time of need, it is refreshing, indeed, to chronicle the life story of this veteran of a great war, George Calhoun, of Reilly township. His earlier years were adventurous ones and included a period as freighter across the great plains, and his subsequent enlistment in the Union army. His later years in Nemaha county have been productive of much material good, and Mr. Calhoun has become owner of 440 acres of land and is president of the First National Bank of Goff, Kans.

George Calhoun was born in Holmes county, Ohio, February 29, 1848, and is a son of Milton and Mary (Kerr) Calhoun, natives of the old Buckeye State and members of an old American family. Milton Calhoun was born in 1797, reared on a farm and was well educated. He taught school for a number of years and migrated to Missouri in 1853. He farmed land in Platte county, Missouri, until his death in 1863. He was a Democrat and a member of the Seceders' church. His wife, Mary, was born in 1800 and reared a family of ten children as follows: Mrs. Helena Moore, who married a Mr. McClain after the death of her first husband, and was married the third time to a Mr. Foster, and is now deceased; Mrs. Eliza Jane McNees, deceased; Mrs. Ruby Hancock, deceased; Mrs. Mary Sharpton, deceased; Amanda, died at the age of eighteen years; Mrs. Rebecca Hill, deceased; John, died at the age of twenty-four years; William Henry, died eight years old; George, subject of this review; Mrs. Emeline Moore, deceased. The mother died in 1857.

George Calhoun was reared on the farm in Ohio and Missouri and when fourteen years old, set out across the plains as a freighter in company with his brother, John M. Calhoun. They engaged in freighting for one year, and Mr. Calhoun then enlisted in the Fourth Missouri cavalry regiment, Company A, and served until the close of the Civil war. In order to be accepted, it was necessary for him to give his birth date as 1846, so that he would be old enough for enlistment. He farmed in Missouri until 1869, after the close of his war service, and then came to Kansas. For the first ten years of his residence in this county, he rented land and worked out by the month and was enabled to make a purchase of eighty acres in Reilly township, which formed the nucleus of his present large holdings of 400 acres in Nemaha county. In addition to this land, he owns forty acres in Jackson county.

Mr. Calhoun is a Republican in politics and has never married. His place is well improved with good buildings; and he has three fruit orchards on his land. He raises Poland China swine and Durham cattle successfully. Mr. Calhoun is one of the organizers of, and is president of, the First National Bank of Goff, Kans.



GEORGE CAI FOUN.



**Henry Rottinghaus.**—Fine horses are the specialty in which Henry Rottinghaus, of Richmond township, takes pride. For years he has made a business of breeding fine horses and has taken a great many prizes at fairs and exhibits. He was born in Oldenburg, Germany, January 6, 1858, and was a son of Barney and Agnes (Putthuf) Rottinghaus. Barney was born December 21, 1821, in Handorf, Germany, where he was a farmer. In 1878 he came to Nemaha county, Kansas, and located on the site where his son now lives, five miles north of Seneca. He farmed until his death on November 8, 1904. He was married in Germany to Agnes Putthuf, who was born April 26, 1826, in Deummerlohausen, Germany. She died April 4, 1908. Mr. and Mrs. Rottinghaus celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in America. Seven children were born to them: Agnes, wife of F. Tangeman, Nemaha township; Henry, of whom this historical account is written; Mrs. Lizzie Nordhaus, Nemaha township; Mrs. Anna Willionbrink, Montröse, Mo.; Barney, Nemaha township farmer; Mrs. Dinah Osterhaus, Nemaha township; one child, last born, died in infancy.

Henry Rottinghaus attended school in his native land but in 1875, he left Germany to come to America, where he thought greater opportunities would be found. He first located in Dubuque county, Iowa, where he worked out as a farm hand for \$14 a month wages. In 1876 he came to Kansas and worked as a farm hand near Seneca until 1881, when he bought eighty acres of land in section 12, Richmond township. He broke the ground, planted trees and built a house, 14x20 feet and one story in height. He remained on this place until 1902, when he moved to the farm on which he now lives. He made many improvements, built barns and sheds, and has increased his holdings until he now owns 520 acres of land, all in Nemaha county, Kansas. But his main interest or hobby is the breeding of fine imported Percheron horses. He makes exhibits of them at fairs and always gets a high compliment on their excellence and frequently takes off the first prize for them. He is also a breeder of the Black Mammoth "Jacks." Mr. Rottinghaus makes a good sum yearly from his horses and takes great pleasure in his fancy animals.

February 15, 1882, he was married to Barbara Weber, who was born January 12, 1862, in Elk county, Pennsylvania, and is a daughter of Michael and Kathrine (Fischer) Weber, natives of Germany. Her parents left the Fatherland in 1861, and settled in Pennsylvania. Later on, March 4, 1870, they came to Nemaha county, Kansas. Ten children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Rottinghaus: Mrs. Mary Busman, living south of Seneca; John, Iowa; Jacob, Corning, a farmer; Joseph, George, Frank, Albert, and Paul, living at home. Clements and Helena are dead.

Mr. Rottinghaus and his family are members of the Roman Catholic church. He has reached a conspicuous place among the farmers of Richmond township by his hard work and thrift. He is a judicious manager, and has proved what hard work and economy can do for anyone, who is willing to deserve success.

**Gottfred Heiniger**, one of the well known and popular farmers and stockman of Richmond township, was born in Berne, Switzerland, August 12, 1869. He is a son of John and Mary (Hess) Heiniger. The father was born in Switzerland in 1826, and came to America in 1895, and settled in Illinois. In 1899, he migrated to Kansas, locating in Nemaha county, where he died the following year. The mother of Gottfred Heiniger was born in Switzerland in 1847, and was the second wife of John Heiniger. Three children were born to this union, their names being: Gottfred, whose life story is herein written; Mrs. Emma Hencher, living in Ohio; Gottlieb, Nebraska.

Gottfred was educated in the public schools of Switzerland. He immigrated to America in 1893 and settled at Bern, Nemaha county, Kansas, and worked out as a farm hand for about ten years. The following six years he spent as a tenant on the farm in Richmond township which he now owns. When he went to it as a renter, the place was only slightly improved and was not so well equipped, as it is today. Mr. Heiniger now owns 320 acres of land in Nemaha county, all of which he has bought by the fruits of his own labors and upon which he can look as a result of his industry and careful management.

In 1897, he was married to Anna Meyer, who was born in Ohio, in 1871, and came to Kansas when a very small child with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Myer, who were born in Germany. To Mr. and Mrs. Heiniger were born five children, as follows: Louise, born 1899; William and Walter, twins, born 1902; Martha, born 1903; Edward, born 1906.

Mr. Heiniger is a German Mennonite, and his wife is of the same faith. Neither is affiliated with fraternal organizations, and in politics, they are independent voters, always supporting the side which seems to be right, without regard for party names. Mr. Heiniger is a member of the school board of Gilman township, and is very much interested in giving better educational advantages to the children of the present generation. He is a conscientious and upright citizen who is respected and admired by his neighbors and by all who know him. He is one of those strong types who form the backbone of our country's citizenry, and without whom America would be weak and vacillating.

**Henry L. Wikoff.**—The review of the life career of Henry L. Wikoff, well known citizen and banker of Oneida, Kans., portrays the accomplishments and achievements of an individual with a definite goal in view. His boyhood ambition aroused and his plans laid for an eventual settlement in Kansas, he chose Oneida as the place to establish a banking concern which has grown to become one of the thriving and important concerns of the county. The two score and seven years which have been spent by Mr. Wikoff in Kansas have been productive of not only material good to himself but have been devoted unselfishly to the betterment and advancement of his home city and county.

Henry L. Wikoff was born in Ontario, Ill., October 31, 1859, and



is a son of Ezekiel and Emily (Wetmore) Wikoff, who were the parents of five children. Ezekiel Wikoff was born at Freehold, N. J., in 1832, and was a son of Henry Wikoff, a native of Holland, who emigrated to New Jersey when a young man, and followed farming until his death at the age of eighty years. Ezekiel Wikoff was one of the early pioneers of Knox county, Illinois, and previous to migrating to the West, he had followed the trade of wheelwright. He included agriculture in his vocations upon coming to Illinois, and developed a fine farm in Knox county, upon which he resided until his demise in 1865. He was the father of five children, as follows: Mrs. Cornelia Wetmore, deceased; Herbert, Manhattan, Kans.; May, dead; Henry L., the subject of this review; Frank E., banker at Oneida, Kans., born in Illinois in 1861. The mother of the foregoing children was born at Utica, New York, in 1827, and died at the home of her son, Henry, in 1905. She was a daughter of Col. E. F. Wetmore, of Utica, N. Y., who commanded a New York regiment of volunteers during the Civil war.

Henry L. Wikoff received his primary education in the district schools of his native county, and studied for one year in Westfield College, Illinois. When fifteen years of age he worked as farm hand for a wage of twenty-five cents per day with "found." He later farmed the old home place in partnership with his brother, Herbert. As early as 1872, he made a trip to Kansas on a hunting expedition, and liked the country so well, especially in Nemaha county, that he made up his mind to eventually locate in this county. Accordingly, in 1889, he left his native county, and in partnership with his brother, Frank, opened a private bank in Oneida. This banking business was conducted in the name of Wikoff Brothers, with considerable success, until 1896, when the organization of the Oneida State Bank was effected. Mr. Wikoff is serving as vice president of this thriving financial institution.

The property interests held by Mr. Wikoff are considerable, and indicate that he possesses financial ability of a high order. He and his brother, Frank E., have become owners of 1,350 acres of good land in Nemaha county, and he owns property in Oneida. He erected a handsome frame residence of nine rooms in 1889. He has served as mayor of Oneida and, during his term as mayor, cement sidewalks and other improvements were completed. During 1908, he filled the office of treasurer of Gilman township. He was again elected mayor of the town in 1912, and re-elected in 1914. During 1912, electric lights were installed on the streets and in the buildings of the town. Mr. Wikoff has always been a public spirited citizen, and has filled practically every office within the gift of the people of Oneida, during his twenty-seven years of residence in Kansas.

Mr. Wikoff was married in 1885 to Miss Mary Skiff, who was born at Champaign, Ill., in September, 1861. Mr. and Mrs. Wikoff have one child: Howard H., born December 6, 1888, in Illinois, and was reared in Nemaha county, Kansas. He graduated from the Oneida High School

in 1905, and then entered the Lexington, Mo., Military Academy, from which he graduated in 1907, with a commission of second lieutenant. He then studied in Chicago University until 1909, and then matriculated at Kansas University, in which institution he took up the study of law in 1912, studying two years. He was admitted to practice in Illinois, and is now connected with the legal department of the Fidelity Trust Company of New York City, at their Chicago headquarters.

Mr. Wikoff is a Progressive in politics. He is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Modern Woodmen of America. When a boy of thirteen years, Mr. Wikoff made his first trip to Kansas for the ostensible purpose of hunting wild game, such as prairie chickens. He was much impressed with the possibilities of the country in the vicinity of Seneca, although, at that time, there were but few houses in the county seat and not many permanent settlers in Nemaha county. Opportunity beckoned to him, however, and the passing years have proved that his judgment as to location and the future of this county were essentially correct. He has seen considerable advance and growth in northern Kansas since his first visit, and has taken an active and influential part in the development of one of the best counties of a great State.

**Louis Hecht.**—Louis Hecht inherits from his father, William Hecht, a disposition for hard work and perseverance which has been instrumental in making him one of the most successful and prominent farmers in Nemaha county. William Hecht was born in Germany in 1823, and after passing his youth and young manhood in his native land, he came to America in search of better opportunity. At the age of thirty, he landed on the shores of this free land and began a struggle which tested his endurance and ambition to the last degree. In Illinois he found work in a sawmill, and later was employed as a carpenter. In 1857 he came to Nemaha county, where he bought 160 acres of land on which he built a log cabin. The land which he purchased was not under cultivation, and he drove a yoke of oxen in plowing up his land for the first time. For years he worked incessantly early and late to make both ends meet. Gradually he achieved success and was able to accumulate some of his returns. At the time of his death, April 14, 1896, he owned 410 acres of land, which was a remarkable record, considering the difficulties which he was forced to undergo. He was \$100 in debt when he reached America and labored under the additional handicap of being in a strange country and compelled to use a strange language. William Hecht was conspicuously successful as a farmer. But best of all, he never relied on anyone to help him out. From the start, he worked independently and saved his money and he was never under obligations to any man. Such a spirit of independence and self-reliance never fails to make success for its possessor, and certainly did not in this instance.

Sophia (Blidsoe) Hecht, the mother of Louis, was born in 1834, and, like her husband, was of German birth. Both of her parents were of Ger-

LOUIS HECHT AND FAMILY.





man birth and were married in their native land but came to Nemaha county, Kansas, in the early days. They were buried in the Lutheran cemetery in Nemaha township. Mrs. Hecht died in 1872. To Mr. and Mrs. Hecht were born eleven children, only three of whom are living. Those surviving are: Mrs. Minnie Stiner, Pawnee county, Nebraska; Louis, subject of this review, third oldest son; Mrs. Eliza Boehmer, of Richardson county, Nebraska.

Louis Hecht was born in Nemaha county, Kansas, June 3, 1861, and grew up on his father's farm on which he put in many long hours of labor when he would have preferred to be splashing in the creek, or lying in the shade. He attended No. 8 district school during the short terms it was in session. At the age of twenty-two years, he rented land for a year from his father and farmed it with considerable success, and the following year, he became heir to 160 acres of fine land in the southwest quarter of section 11. By hard work he has increased his holdings to 390 acres, all of which is productive. His land was unimproved, and Mr. Hecht had to build a frame house in which to live. Originally his house was 16x24 feet in size, but later he made an addition increasing the size of it. In 1891 he built a spacious barn, 30x40 feet in size and sixteen feet high. This is one of the best barns in the township, and Mr. Hecht is justly proud of it. He has made other extensive improvements on his farm which cannot be mentioned in the space at hand, but it can be said that he is always on the alert to make additions to his farm which will increase its usefulness and value. Thirty acres of his present holdings are in timber of excellent quality.

On February 28, 1884, he was married to Mary Boehmer, a daughter of Henry and Caroline (Hotham) Boehmer, natives of Oldenburg and Hessen, Germany. When young people, they left their native land and came to America, settling in Wisconsin where the father worked in the pine forests. He was married in Illinois and came to Nebraska in 1860, where he remained until his death, October 12, 1910, at the age of eighty-six years. The mother is still living on the old home place in Pawnee county, Nebraska, with her youngest son. Mr. and Mrs. Boehmer were the parents of eight living children: Henry, Richardson county, Nebraska; Fred, Pawnee county, Nebraska; Mrs. Mary Hecht; Mrs. Caroline Koester, Du Bois, Neb.; Mrs. Sophia Siske, Pawnee county, Nebraska; William, Pawnee county, Nebraska; Mrs. Rosa Siske, Pawnee county, Nebraska; Herman, at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Hecht are the parents of seven children, as follows: Edwin, deceased; Carl, born January 9, 1889; Elmer, born September 11, 1891; Jesse, born December 26, 1894; Lottie, born June 13, 1898; Rosa, born November 5, 1900; Leslie, born April 28, 1906. Carl is farming in Iowa. Elmer is a farmer in Nemaha township, and Lottie is his housekeeper.

Mr. Hecht is a Republican, who has been elected to the school board, on which he has served with complete satisfaction to his constituents,

and also served as road overseer for two terms. He professes the Evangelical faith, and has maintained a high reputation among his neighbors for uprightness and probity. Throughout the community there is the deepest respect for his achievements and for the success he has won despite overwhelming difficulties.

**John F. Tryon** is one of the prominent farmers of Clear Creek township and he has, by pure industry and good management made a comfortable living out of his farm and the Duroc Jersey hogs of which he is justly proud. Mr. Tryon was born March 15, 1870, in Clear Creek township, Nemaha county, and was a son of Aaron and Elizabeth Ann (Gilman) Tryon. Aaron Tryon was born September 7, 1822, in Ohio, and farmed in his native State until 1856. He then came to Kansas and settled in Clear Creek township, where he homesteaded forty acres of fine farming land. He broke up the soil and put most of it in cultivation. An abundance of rock was to be had in his locality and Mr. Tryon built a two-room house of native stone, which still stands and is as strong as it was the day it was built. On December 5, 1899, Aaron Tryon passed away, after having lived a long and useful life. The mother of John F. Tryon was born April 16, 1827, in Ohio, and died March 22, 1901. Both were of Irish descent and were members of the United Brethren church. Aaron Tryon's life was an interesting one and he could talk for hours about the days of the prairie schooners and of the incidents which happened while he was driving his covered wagon from Ohio to Kansas. He later held public office in Clear Creek township and always executed his trust with sincerity and to the interest of his community. To this union twelve children were born, seven of whom are now living.

John F. Tryon attended school in district No. 56. He worked on his father's farm when he was not in school and helped a great deal in making the farm bring a living income. At the age of twenty-one, he took charge of the management of his father's farm and gave him a much needed rest. John's parents lived with him on the farm and never had cause to worry about food and shelter in their declining years. At their death, John inherited the forty-acre farm and now owns 165 acres jointly with his brother, Joseph. Mr. Tryon takes a great interest in his hogs and for years he has been a breeder of Duroc Jersey hogs of a very high grade. These are the pride of the farm and no visitor comes but he must go out to see the hogs the very first thing.

He was married to Laura Lockard, February 23, 1905. She was born September 1, 1883, in Mahaska county, Iowa, and was the daughter of James M. C. and Mary J. (Reed) Lockard, who were both born in Indiana. The father was born October 23, 1835, and lived on the farm until the outbreak of the Civil war, when he enlisted in the Union army on August 31, 1861, at Oskaloosa, Iowa, in Company C, Fortieth Iowa infantry. Taking an active part in the fighting, he saw service in various States of the South, including Arkansas and Tennessee. He was wounded

in the battle at Little Rock, Ark., and was in the army hospital six months. The injury was in his right arm and was very serious for a time. He also had six brothers in the army. The mother of Mrs. Tryon came to Kansas in 1900, but has since returned to Iowa, where she is now living at the age of seventy-three years.

To Mr. and Mrs. Tryon have been born four children, two of whom died in infancy. The other two, Goldy and Lucy, live with their parents. Mr. Tryon is a Republican and was at one time a member of the township board. He is a regular attendant at religious services and is known among his neighbors for his good character and steady habits of life. He is one of the public-spirited citizens of his community and is always ready to do what seems to him to be for the best interests of the community.

**Emery Conwell.**—The review of the life of Emery Conwell, hardware merchant of Oneida, Kans., is an epitome of success and is a record of considerable accomplishment by a man who is yet young in years, while having risen to a high place in the business world and made good not only as an agriculturist, but as a merchant.

Emery Conwell was born in Grant county, Indiana, January 26, 1870, and is a son of A. L. Conwell and Kathrine (Higgins) Conwell, who were the parents of ten children, seven of whom are living. A. L. Conwell was born in Indiana in 1836, reared to young manhood on his father's farm, and at the outbreak of the Rebellion, he enlisted as a member of the Thirteenth Indiana cavalry. He saw much active service in the Southland, and at the close of the war he resumed his peaceful pursuit of farming. In 1870 A. L. Conwell migrated to Richardson county, Nebraska, where he made his home until 1879, at which time he came to Nemaha county, Kansas, and bought 160 acres of land in section two, Gilman township. This place had but few improvements when Mr. Conwell became the owner of it, and he developed a fine farm which served as his home until his retirement to a home in Oneida in 1896, directly after his farm home and buildings were destroyed by the great cyclone of May 17, 1896. He owns 560 acres of good land in this county and was an extensive feeder of live stock. The mother of Emery Conwell was born in Ohio in 1841, married in Indiana, and has been her husband's faithful helpmate.

Emery Conwell was reared on his father's farm and attended the district school and the public school of Oneida, Kans., eventually graduating from the Oneida High School. At the age of twenty-one years he rented land and began farming on his own account. Five years later he bought 160 acres of land in Gilman township, which he improved to such an extent that it is one of the finest farms in the township or county. He erected a six-room dwelling, barn and other outbuildings and made it a point to keep good graded live stock on his place. For a number of years Mr. Conwell was a successful breeder of Duroc Jersey swine. In 1910 he traded his Nemaha county farm for a tract of 260

acres in Sedgwick county, Kansas, and has at the present time 420 acres of Kansas land, besides property in Oneida. In 1911 he traded land for a stock of hardware at Oneida and has since conducted a very successful business enterprise which requires that he carry \$15,000 worth of hardware and furniture in stock. This stock is well housed and displayed in a building forty by eighty feet in extent.

Mr. Conwell was married November 18, 1896 to Miss Belle Brokaw, born in Illinois in 1875, a daughter of John and Letitia (Van Nuys) Brokaw, who migrated to Kansas in 1880 and made a settlement in Gilman township, this county. Both parents of Mrs. Conwell were natives of New England and are descended from old American stock. Mr. Brokaw is now living in retirement in Gilman township with his two daughters, Mrs. Mary Johnson and Mrs. Belle Conwell. Mrs. Brokaw is deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Conwell are the parents of five children, as follows: Goldia, Lois, Lenis, Bernice and Wilma, all of whom are at home with their parents.

Politically, Mr. Conwell is allied with the Republican party. He is fraternally allied with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His religious affiliations are with the Christian church, of which organization he is an elder. Mr. Conwell is a deliberate, careful, conscientious business man who carefully weighs each undertaking or proposition until convinced of its merits and then proceeds to accomplish the task set to the best of his ability.

**Jacob Fleisch.**—"The Groves Were God's First Temples."—Evidently Jacob Fleisch and his wife of Nemaha township were born with a love of the beautiful embedded deeply within their souls—for, during their whole life, they have been lovers of the beauties of nature, and have endeavored to express this deep love by means of assisting nature in beautifying the treeless prairie of Nemaha county by an extensive planting of forest trees and flowers. The grounds around the Fleisch country estate are perfect bowers of beauty and a riot of gorgeous color in flowering shrubs and plants, cared for by Mr. and Mrs. Fleisch. Nearly the half of his 320 acres of land is taken up with woods which he has planted with his own hands. Fifty acres or more are planted to walnut trees, ten acres are of hedge trees, and a veritable forest of great, maple trees extends almost as far as the eye can reach. When Mr. Fleisch moved to his prairie farm over forty-five years ago, he missed the woods and flowers of his native Buckeye State and proceeded to remedy its defects by a systematic planting of trees and flowers. As a result he has what is probably the most beautiful estate in all of northern Kansas, and has what is perhaps the most extensive private forest in the length and breadth of Kansas.

Jacob Fleisch was born in Preble county, Ohio, October 16, 1838, and is a son of Michael and Kathrine (Hawk) Fleisch, natives of Germany. Michael Fleisch emigrated from Germany to Pennsylvania, and migrated from there to make a settlement in Preble county, Ohio, where





JACOB FLEISCH.



MRS. JACOB FLEISCH.



he died in 1891, at the age of seventy-nine years. He was twice married, his first wife being the mother of Jacob Fleisch, the subject, and died in 1874, at the age of seventy-five years. Michael Fleisch was the father of fourteen children, of whom three are living, as follows: John Vanier, of Humboldt, Neb.; Joseph, of Preble county, Ohio, and Jacob, with whom this review is concerned.

Jacob Fleisch was reared to young manhood on the parental farm in Preble county, Ohio, and migrated to Kansas in 1870. He purchased a tract of unbroken prairie land in Nemaha township, section 1, Nemaha county, which he has improved with good buildings, flowers and a veritable forest of maple, walnut and other deciduous trees. One hundred and sixty acres of his half section of land is planted to trees and the farm presents a striking and unique appearance as contrasted with the neighboring places. Mr. Fleisch keeps his acreage in a high state of cultivation, and has prospered during the many years he has been a resident of Kansas.

Mr. Fleisch was married June 22, 1876, in Preble county, Ohio, to Miss Mary Jane Gard, who was born in Preble county, Ohio, January 20, 1838, and is a daughter of Joseph and Sadie (Bishop) Gard. Her father was a native of Preble county, and her mother was born in North Carolina, dying in 1882 at the age of seventy-two years. Joseph Gard departed this life in 1886 at the age of seventy-five years. He followed farming as a vocation. Previous to her marriage, Mrs. Fleisch was a very successful teacher. No children have been born to this worthy couple, who have always been hard and diligent workers. They are a jolly, happy and hospitable wedded pair who enjoy life and take a keen interest in local and State affairs, and believe in keeping up with the times in every possible way by extensive reading and study. Mr. Fleisch has the welfare of his county at heart, and he and Mrs. Fleisch are of the true pioneer type who have progressed with their county and State. Mr. Fleisch is a strong exponent of good roads and is a builder of good roads, being not only an advocate but a practical demonstrator of the value of a system of highways. While he is not a member of any church denomination, he and Mrs. Fleisch endeavor to live upright and Christian lives. Politically, Mr. Fleisch is an independent in his views and is inclined to favor the Socialistic idea. He is broad minded and liberal in all of his views, and is one of the best citizens of Nemaha county.

**Joseph P. Carroll.**—One of the well-known farmers and stockmen of Clear Creek township is Joseph P. Carroll, who was born and reared in the township in which he now resides. Mr. Carroll comes of Irish parentage. His father, John Carroll, having been born on the Emerald Isle in 1820. The elder Carroll left his native land when a young man and came to New York, where he worked as a laborer for some time. A few years later he went to Wisconsin and migrated to Kansas in 1854, locating for a time at Leavenworth and then in Marshall county, Kansas, where he farmed until 1872. Coming to Nemaha county he home-

steaded eighty acres and bought 160 acres, on which he built a log cabin. He spent long months of tedious labor clearing and breaking his land for cultivation, but within a few years he was well situated and improved his farm each year. He died in 1891. The mother, Elizabeth (Carroll) Carroll, was born in Ireland in 1837. She is now living in Summerfield, Kans. To Mr. and Mrs. Carroll eight children were born. Joseph Carroll was born January 10, 1874, in the log cabin which his father had built on his farm. The family of John Carroll were forced to economize and the members helped out in the field to make ends meet. Joseph was required to do a great deal of work for his father, but nevertheless he found time to attend the school in District No. 17, where he was drilled in the principles of the "three R's." For several years he worked for his father and brother, Michael, but in 1898 he bought eighty acres of land in Clear Creek township. He now owns the original eighty acres and farms 200 acres besides, and from this land he nets a goodly income. On his farm he has made it a hobby to keep graded stock and his Shorthorn cattle are worthy of all the pride he bestows upon them.

Mr. Carroll is unmarried. He is affiliated with the Knights of Columbus and Catholic Mutual Benefit Association and professes the Roman Catholic faith. In politics, Mr. Carroll is in sympathy with the Democratic party and he has been trustee of Clear Creek township as well as township clerk. The fact that he has held these two offices shows the esteem in which his fellow citizens hold him. His official duties were administered with care and promptness and to the general satisfaction of his community. Mr. Carroll is a public spirited citizen and is always ready to do his share in fostering improvements in his township.

**John A. Rilinger**, late of Clear Creek township, Nemaha county, Kansas, was born in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, in 1857, and was a son of Martin and Elizabeth (Block) Rilinger, natives of Prussia, German Empire, and who immigrated to America in an early day and located in Wisconsin. When John Rilinger was nine months old his parents left Wisconsin and settled in Nemaha county, where he was reared to mahood and took up the avocation of farming. He was industrious and applied himself so diligently to the task of building up a competence for himself and his that he became the owner of 320 acres of excellent farm land in Clear Creek township.

Mr. Rilinger was married in 1883 to Agnes McKinley, who bore him five children, as follows: John, farming the home place of the Rilingers; Mary, a sister, O. S. B., Atchison, Kans.; Rosa, wife of Bernard Buser, Clear Creek township; Leo, farming on the home place; William, at home with his mother. Mr. Rilinger departed this life in 1907. He was a loyal Catholic and was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. It can be said of him that he was a good husband, and a kind father, who was always looking ahead into the future with a view to making every provision within his power for his wife and children.

Mrs. Agnes Rilinger was born February 4, 1868, at Atchison, Kans., and is a daughter of James and Marion (Dailey) McKinley, natives of Indiana and Canada, respectively.

James McKinley was born in 1840 in Indiana and was a son of John and Susan McKinley, natives of Ireland, who immigrated to America and were farmers in Indiana. James followed the trade of carpenter and came to Atchison when the city was a village and there plied his trade until his demise in 1871. James and Marion McKinley were the parents of the following children: Mrs. Julia Yates, wife of J. Yates, a railroader of St. Joseph, Mo.; Mrs. Mary Steward, Oklahoma; Mrs. Agnes Rilinger. The mother of the foregoing children was born in Canada in 1841, and was a daughter of Patrick Dailey, a native of Ireland, who first emigrated from his native isle to Canada and thence came to Atchison, Kans. The mother of Mrs. Rilinger died in 1871 and she was left an orphan at the age of three years. She was reared by a kind couple named Mathias and Anna (Zalesky) Ugoreck, natives of Prussia, who immigrated to this country in the early sixties and first located in Atchison, Kans., and came to Nemaha county in 1865. The Ugoreck farm was located six miles south of Seneca. Mr. Ugoreck is now living in Seneca, retired.

Mrs. Rilinger is a capable woman, who has taken over the management of her 180-acre farm since the death of her husband and is accomplishing the task of making the farm pay, with the assistance of her sturdy sons.

**John M. Schmidt**, farmer and stockman of Clear Creek township, Nemaha county, Kansas, was born at Seneca, Kans., February 4, 1875, and is a son of Mathias and Anglia (Davis) Schmidt, who were parents of five children. Mathias Schmidt, his father, was born in the city of Wittenberg, German, in 1826, and left his native land when eighteen years old. He located in Philadelphia, and worked at his trade of shoe maker until after the close of the Civil war when he came West to Kansas and opened a shoe shop in Seneca. He made shoes for the trade here, and did shoe repair work for twenty-two years, and then invested his savings in a farm in Marion township, which he cultivated until his demise in 1907. He was twice married. His second wife, who was the mother of the subject of this sketch, was born in Germany in 1845, and died May 26, 1899.

John M. Schmidt assisted his father on the home farm until he attained his majority, and then bought 160 acres of unimproved prairie land in section 20, Clear Creek township. He broke up the first sod on this land and, in the course of time, made many improvements. He has prospered since buying his first quarter section, and now owns 240 acres of excellent farm land. He is a breeder of Poland China hogs, and also raises sheep, a department of animal husbandry, which he finds quite profitable.

Mr. Schmidt's marriage with Miss Mary McQuaid took place in

1897, and the following children have blessed this happy marriage: Nora, attending school in Seneca, Kans.; Cecilia, Hugh, Oscar, Ralph, Rosa, Levert and Lawrence. The mother of these children was born June 3, 1878, in Nemaha township, a daughter of Peter and Elizabeth McQuaid (see sketch of Jerome McQuaid, brother of Mrs. Schmidt).

Mr. Schmidt is a Democrat in his political affiliations, and he and the members of his family are loyal adherents of the Catholic church.

**Charles Rethmann** is one of the substantial farmers and stockmen of Nemaha county and represents that prosperous middle class of Americans on whom the success of this great democracy depends.

He was born September 1, 1879, in Marion township of Nemaha county, and is therefore a native "jayhawker" and one whose loyalty and love for his State has kept him within her confines, even though greater financial success might possibly have been had in other places. His parents, Clements and Agnes (Lutmerding) Rethmann, were the parents of seven other children, and four girls and two boys of the family still live. The father was born in Germany in 1843. Coming to America, he settled in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he worked as a teamster for seven years. He then came to Nemaha county and bought land in Marion township with the savings which he had slowly accumulated by hard work and constant economy. The land was poorly improved, there being only a small shanty on the place, but he began making improvements from the first, and, in the forty years during which he owned the place, he made wonderful progress. To show the difficulties he worked under in the early days, the method of gathering corn by hand in a basket may be cited. But he had "grit" and a good supply of German common sense which have made him a successful farmer. As proof, he now owns 370 acres of land in Nemaha county, Kansas. At present he is living in retirement in St. Benedict, Kans., where he moved in 1908. The mother of our subject was born in Germany in 1844, and left there at the same time her husband sailed for America. The voyage was a hard one, lasting nine weeks. On the trip, twenty-two passengers died. The mother died in 1910, and is buried in St. Benedict's Catholic cemetery.

Eight children were born to them: Mrs. Mary Olberding, living three miles west of Seneca; Christena, married to Mr. Haferkamp, who lives near St. Benedict, Kans.; Mrs. Anna Wichmann, living three miles east of St. Benedict, Kans.; Josephine, wife of Frank H. Holthaus, of Richmond township; Charles, of whom this sketch deals; Benjamin, farming the old home place; John and Frank, deceased.

Charles Rethmann learned the rudiments of the common branches at district school No. 59 in Marion township, and after spending his youth working for his father on the farm, he started out at the age of twenty-one years to shift for himself. He rented the farm on which he now lives, which consists of 120 acres, owned by his father. In 1910 he bought eighty acres adjoining the farm which his father owned, and two years later, bought his father's farm. Behind these transactions lie a lot of



CLEMENTS S. RETHMANN.



MRS. AGNES RETHMANN.





hard work and careful management, but the rapidity with which Charles Rethmann forged ahead shows the stuff that is in him. He has always been very business-like in the conduct of his affairs and takes pride in keeping his improvements up to a modern standard. His 200 acres are an enviable farm which anyone would wish to own.

He was married, in 1900, to Minnie Deters. To this union one child, Clem, was born. Mrs. Minnie Rethmann was born in Germany, April 16, 1879, and came to Nemaha county, Kansas, with her parents in 1895.

In politics, Mr. Rethmann inclines toward the Democratic party and usually votes for that organization's candidates. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association.

In such a career as this, the real accomplishments are not known to those on the outside. No one but those who have gone through the task of building up a farm in properous holdings know what labor and toil it entails and what sleepless hours are spent in planning expenditures. Mr. Rethmann has succeeded conspicuously and is a credit to Nemaha county.

**Richard D. McCaffrey.**—The father of Richard D. McCaffrey was Edward McCaffrey, who came to Kansas in 1858, and went through the rough life on the frontier which included guerilla and Indian attacks, stage coaches, and plowing by oxen. Edward McCaffrey was born in Ireland in 1822, and came to America when a young man, locating in Iowa. After living there for some time, he migrated to Kansas, and homesteaded a claim in Clear Creek township, Nemaha county. His land was in section 11. In these days there was, of course, little chance of shipping finished lumber into the part of the country where Mr. McCaffrey was located, so he set to work, and built a cabin out of hand-hewn logs. At the same time he erected a barn for his horses and cattle, and though materials for building were scanty, he was able to construct very serviceable buildings, which he used for several years, until he was able to afford better ones. In traveling from Iowa to Kansas, he drove a yoke of oxen which he also used in breaking up his land. In this day of swift automobiles and tractors, it is hard to realize the slowness of the older method of travel and farming, and how much more difficult it made farming. His trading was done at St. Joseph and Atchison, as these cities were the nearest places where he could get provisions. The trip was rough and dangerous, for there were many Indians along the route which made travel unsafe. Many times white settlers, in going to these places to trade, were attacked by Indians, though few were ever killed in the skirmishes. Game was plentiful in those days, especially deer and wild turkey, and a pioneer who could shoot was not in danger of starving. Mr. McCaffrey owned 640 acres of land in Clear Creek township, which he farmed until his death in 1896. In the early days, he served as county commissioner, and always took a lively interest in the public affairs of Nemaha county. He was reared in the Roman Catholic faith.

The mother of Richard McCaffrey, whose maiden name was Fannie Cassidy, was born in Ireland. She died in 1876, at the age of forty-eight years. Ten children were born to her, eight of whom are living. Richard, the ninth child, was born in Clear Creek township, Nemaha county, March 21, 1872.

Richard McCaffrey grew up on his father's farm, and attended school in district No. 26, when it was possible for him to do so. At the age of twenty-two, he started farming for himself and, in 1909, bought eighty acres of land. This has since been increased to 219 acres, which lie in section 2, Clear Creek township. Mr. McCaffrey has built a number of improvements on his place, which have greatly increased its value. He takes special pride in his fine stock, which is of a very high quality, and which is all graded.

He was married, in 1905, to Sarah Clark, daughter of William and Marion (McBride) Clark, who were natives of Scotland. Both parents are now dead. Mr. and Mrs. McCaffrey are the parents of four children. Francis W., Melvin M., Marion A. and Harold E. Mr. McCaffrey is a Democrat. He is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen lodge at Bern.

Mr. McCaffrey is a conscientious man of high character. His many friends admire him for his integrity and firm convictions and, though he has never sought political preferment, there is little doubt that he would make a good official were his fellow citizens to confer the honor of public position upon him.

**Alfred A. Smith.**—The late Alfred A. Smith of Clear Creek township, Nemaha county, Kansas, was one of the pioneers of Kansas, who came to Nemaha county with his parents as early as 1859. He was born in Jacksonville, Ill., March 12, 1845, and was a son of William and Elizabeth (Mosson) Smith, who were natives of England, and were married in Illinois after emigration from their native land. The Smith family immigrated to Kansas in 1859, and William Smith homesteaded and bought eighty acres of land in Clear Creek township, Nemaha county. This farm was located in section 26. William became prominent in the civic affairs of Nemaha county and, being a well read man who had taught school in Illinois, easily became a leader of the people in his day. He served as registrar of deeds of the county, and it was while filling this position that his skill as a fine penman came into play. His hand writing is inscribed on many of the records in the Nemaha county court house. In the early days, he also taught school in the town of Seneca. By two marriages, he (William) became the father of five children, as follows: William Alfred, deceased; Edmond, Montezuma, Colo.; second child born, Mrs. Elizabeth Potts, deceased; Mary A., wife of D. Kale, St. Louis, Mo., and Alfred A., the subject of this review.

Alfred A. Smith grew to manhood in Nemaha county and farmed in section 26, Clear Creek township, until his demise on July 27, 1912.

He became the owner of 160 acres of land, and was a good farmer and a kind husband and father. He was twice married, his first wife being Melissa Kline of Illinois, who bore him three children: William, living in Colorado; Harry, St. Louis, Mo.; Mrs. Libbie Curtis, Boise, Idaho.

The marriage of Alfred A. Smith and Anna Nowak was solemnized at Seneca in 1880, and has been blessed with the following children: Alice, at home with her mother, and a teacher; Mrs. Mabel McCune, Brooklyn, Kans.; Walter, who is farming the home place for his mother; Frank, Clyde and Clara, at home. Mrs. Smith has three step-children, namely: William, living in Colorado; Mrs. Elizabeth Curtis, living in Idaho; Harry, residing in St. Louis, Mo. Mrs. Smith was born in Iowa, May 5, 1856, and is a daughter of John and Catharine (Luskett) Nowak, natives of Bohemia, who emigrated from their birthplace at the time of marriage and came to America. John Nowak was born in 1816, and died in 1880. He was a stone mason and plasterer by trade and, after living in Iowa and St. Joseph, Mo., he located on eighty acres of land in Nemaha county, Kansas, where he reared his family to maturity. The mother of Mrs. Smith was born in 1835, and is now living with her son, Van, in Nemaha county. Mrs. Smith was educated in the Seneca schools, and also studied in St. Joseph. Since her husband's death, she has conducted her 160 acre farm successfully, but had the misfortune to lose her home by fire in 1914, and has replaced the burned structure by a new home completed during the early part of 1916.

It is worthy of mention that the late Alfred A. Smith was a freighter across the plains enroute from St. Joseph, Mo. and Seneca, Kans., to Denver, Colo.

**Daniel E. Mitchell**, farmer, breeder, and sportsman, of Clear Creek township, was born on his father's farm in Clear Creek township, June 23, 1875, and is a product of the pioneer and constructive era of the development of his county and State. He is a son of John and Mary (Moriarty) Mitchell, who were natives of Ireland and were among the very earliest settlers in Clear Creek township.

John Mitchell was born in Ireland in 1846 and was a son of Daniel and Mary (Corcoran) Mitchell, who emigrated from the Emerald Isle in 1850, and came to America and settled in Ohio, where the family resided until 1860. In that year, Daniel Mitchell came with his family to Nemaha county and bought a quarter section of land in Clear Creek township, upon which he erected a log cabin in which two of his daughters were born, namely, Anna and Rosa. He broke up the prairie soil with six head of oxen, improved his tract and later sold it. Daniel Mitchell died in 1890, nearly 100 years old. His wife died in 1897, aged eighty years, and was the mother of six children. John Mitchell, father of the subject, died in 1913, and became the owner of 400 acres of land before his demise. He had three days' schooling all told in his life.

When the family resided in Missouri a few years previous to locating in Kansas he was the only white boy attending school and the negroes had a habit of fighting him on this account. However, he was a natural mathematician and easily overcame the handicap imposed through lack of enough schooling. His wife, Mary Moriarty, was born in Virginia in 1849 and died in 1894. She was a daughter of Patrick and Margaret (Alexander) Moriarty, natives of Ireland and Virginia, respectively. Fourteen children were born to John and Mary Mitchell, as follows: Daniel E., concerning whom this review is written; Patrick, a farmer in Marshall county, Kansas; James, farming in Clear Creek township; Mrs. Mary Hoffman, Harrington, Kans.; John R., Marshall county, Kansas; Mrs. Margaret Skoch, Clear Creek township; William F., Marshall county, Kansas; Joseph L., Marshall county, Kansas; Thomas, Pawnee county, Nebraska; Mrs. Rosa Young, Clear Creek township; Mrs. Anna Egan, Marshall county, Kansas; Sister Josephine, Sheridan, Wyo.; Frank, Marshall county, Kansas; Gilbert, Clear Creek township.

Daniel E. Mitchell attended District School No. 17, and also spent a four-months term at Axtell schools. When twenty-two years old he rented land in Marshall county, Kansas. He next rented the farm, which he now owns, from his grandmother and in 1898 he purchased this farm of 159 acres. He has erected all the existing improvements on the place and has a good home and barns. Mr. Mitchell is a well known and successful breeder of Duroc Jersey swine and has made exhibits of his stock. He is also a breeder of Hereford cattle.

Mr. Mitchell is a lover of sport and hunting and has one of the finest collections of furs in the county, which includes the skins of wolves, raccoons and coyotes, which he has brought down with his rifle. He is considered to be a fine marksman and is probably the best shot in Nemaha county.

Mr. Mitchell was married in 1892 to Amelia Gossin and this union has been blessed with five children, as follows: John, deceased; Tressie, Genevieve, Robert and Daniel. Mrs. Mitchell was born at St. Bridget, Marshall county, Kansas, November 4, 1873, and is a daughter of John and Kathrine (Confrey) Gossin, natives of New York and Ireland, respectively, and who settled in Kansas as early as 1861.

Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell are members of the Catholic church. Mr. Mitchell is a Democrat and a member of the Farmers Union.

**Albert C. Eichenmann**, of Clear Creek township, was born in Switzerland, July 20, 1853, and is a son of Zelestine and Mary E. (Oechle) Eichenmann, who were the parents of twenty children, seven of whom were reared to maturity. Zelestine Eichenmann was a native-born Swiss, who was a farmer and became a member of the Swiss Congress. He died in 1884. The mother of the subject was born in Switzerland in May, 1822, and died in her native country in 1878.

Albert C. Eichenmann received a good education in his native coun-

try and immigrated to America in 1873. He located in Madison county, Illinois, where he farmed and taught school until 1879, when he came to Kansas and located in Clay county. He farmed in Clay county until 1881 and then located in Nemaha county. He bought land in Mitchell township, sold it in 1886 and bought 160 acres in section 22, Clear Creek township. He built a house on this farm and sold it in 1892. After a residence in Seneca in official capacity he bought 160 acres in section 7, Clear Creek township, which he farmed for two years and then rented land in Marion township. Later he took charge of the present Rilinger farm of 330 acres in Clear Creek township, where he is now making his home.

Mr. Eichenmann was married in 1879 to Mary E. Hochderffer, who has borne him fifteen children, as follows: Emma, deceased; Josephine, wife of C. H. Wempe, the well known horse breeder of Richmond township; Frederick, San Francisco, Cal.; Mrs. Kathrine Jackson, of Leavenworth, Kans.; Leo, deceased; Elizabeth, wife of F. Miller, Tuttle, Okla.; Rosa, living with Mrs. C. H. Wempe; Francis, Seneca, Kans.; Helen, Leavenworth, Kans.; Albert, Paul, August, Zelestine, John and Constance, at home with their parents. The mother of this remarkably large family was born in Bond county, Illinois, July 20, 1862, and is a daughter of Frank and Kathrine (Kloster) Hochderffer, natives of France, who emigrated from their native country in 1842 and located in Missouri, where Frank Hochderffer engaged in the manufacture of brick. The family came to Nemaha county, Kans., in 1884, but the father remained here but a short time, failing health compelling his removal to California, where he died.

Mr. and Mrs. Eichenmann and their children are members of the Catholic church, and Mr. Eichenmann is a member of the Knights of Columbus. Mr. Eichenmann is a Democrat who has been a leader of his party in the county and has served in an official capacity. In 1892 he was one of the leaders of the Populist movement in Kansas and was elected to the office of registrar of deeds of Nemaha county, serving for one term. He has held many township offices and has taken an active part in civic affairs. From 1905 to 1910 he was engaged in the hardware business at Baileyville, and in 1914 returned to his present farm. Mr. Eichenmann is a well read man, who keeps posted on the topics of the day and is well thought of by all who know him.

**Henry F. Katz**, farmer and stockman, Nemaha township, this county, was born July 12, 1884, on a farm where he now lives. He is a son of Christ and Doretta (Flentie) Katz, natives of Germany. Christ Katz accompanied his parents from Germany to America and was reared to young manhood in Illinois. When he attained a man's estate he migrated westward to Nemaha county, Kansas, and was a pioneer settler in this county who worked hard and accumulated a large amount of land previous to his demise in 1913. He was one of the most successful agriculturists of the county. He was the father of twelve chil-

dren, as follows: William, a farmer of Nemaha township; Henry F., with whom this review is directly concerned; Lizzie, living in Oklahoma City, Okla.; Herman, Nemaha township; Christ, Nemaha township; Albert, Manhattan, Kans.; Edith, Chicago, Ill.; Mrs. Emma Peake, of Manhattan, Kans.; Alvin, also living at Manhattan; August, residing in South Dakota; Mary and Christ, deceased. The mother of these children was born in Germany and died in 1902 at the age of forty-five years. Both parents lie buried in the Lutheran cemetery in Nemaha township.

Henry F. Katz was reared on his father's farm and attended Prairie Grove Public School in District No. 65. He succeeded to the home place by inheritance and purchase and is now the owner of 257 acres in section 12, Nemaha township. In former years he was an extensive feeder of cattle and hogs.

Mr. Katz was married in 1908 to Miss Elvina Korber and this union has been blessed with four children, as follows: Maleda, born March 21, 1909; Mildred, born March 22, 1911, and Doretta, born June 15, 1913, and a son born in January, 1916. Mrs. Katz was born in Dubois, Neb., May 13, 1889, and is a daughter of Fred and Theresa (Poppe) Korber, natives of Germany, and who reared a family of eight children, of whom six are living. Mr. and Mrs. Korber resided on a farm near the Katz place in Nemaha township. Mr. Korber died January 27, 1916, aged sixty-one years.

Mr. Katz is allied with the Republican party and he and the family are members of the Lutheran church. Mr. Katz is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America lodge at DuBois, Neb.

**Conrad Droge.**—During the fifty years of Conrad Droge's residence in America he has amassed a comfortable fortune and held one of the highest offices within the gift of the people of Nemaha county, Kans. Like other German immigrants to the United States, Mr. Droge landed on our hospitable shores a poor man, blessed with robust health and strength and imbued with an ambition to succeed. He has accomplished his desires and is now one of the old pioneer settlers of Kansas who has assisted in developing one of the best counties of a great State and taken his place among the leaders of his home county.

Conrad Droge was born in Hanover, Germany, January 14, 1844, and is a son of Henry and Louise (Bunnenberg) Droge, who lived and died in their native land and reared a family of three children, as follows: Henry, deceased; Conrad, the subject of this review; William, a farmer in Pawnee county, Nebraska. Conrad Droge was reared on his father's farm in Hanover, Germany, and in 1866 crossed the ocean in search of fortune in America. He worked as farm hand in Illinois for one year and then came to Seneca, Kans., in 1867, where he was employed as laborer and clerked in a general store for four years. His desire had always been to own a farm of his own, and during his years of hard work at wages he carefully saved his money and in 1873 he

invested his cash capital in 130 acres of unimproved land in section 4, Nemaha township. During his first year on the farm he broke up part of it and built a shanty as a domicile. This shanty was soon superseded by a commodious stone house which makes his home today. He has added to his holdings until he now owns 370 acres of land in Kansas and Nebraska.

Mr. Droge was married on August 7, 1874, to Miss Sophia Poppe, and this marriage has resulted in the birth of nine children, six of whom are living, as follows: Emma, at home; William, a farmer in Nebraska; Henry, farming in Montana; Herbert, George and Freda, at home. The mother of these children was born in Hanover, Germany, January 11, 1858, a daughter of Henry Poppe, who left the Fatherland in 1870 with his family and settled in Nemaha county, Kansas.

Mr. Droge is a Republican and has always taken an active and influential part in political and civic affairs in Nemaha county. He was elected to the office of county commissioner in 1893 on the Republican ticket and has served faithfully and capably for six years. He has also served the people of his township as trustee and school director and is usually found in the forefront of all good movements. He and Mrs. Droge and the children are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church and contribute of their substance to the support of this church. Mr. Droge is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

**Moses Henton Allison**, farmer and stockman, Nemaha township, was born on a farm in McDonough county, Illinois, January 16, 1843, and is a son of Thomas and Martha (Humphrey) Allison, natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio respectively. Thomas Allison, his father, was born in 1811, in Pennsylvania, a son of William Allison, who married a Miss Haynes, and was of Scotch descent, the family being an old one in America. The Allisons migrated to Illinois and from that State, Thomas Allison migrated to Iowa in an early day, and operated a flouring mill at Council Bluffs, where he died in 1871. Thomas and Martha Allison were the parents of three children, as follows: William, dead; Moses Henton, with whom this review is concerned; Augustav, Cole-raine, Minn. The mother of these children was born in 1820, and died at the home of her son, Moses H., in 1884. Both parents were members of the Presbyterian church.

Moses H. Allison was educated in the Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, High School, and enlisted in the Third Iowa regiment of artillery at Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 1864, but was never engaged in battle. In 1869, he and his brother, William, inherited 480 acres of land in sections 5, 6, 7 and 8 in Nemaha township, Nemaha county, Kansas, and he came West to develop his land. He built his home on that part of the tract, lying in section 5, erecting a stone house and other farm buildings. Mr. Allison prospered in Kansas and owned considerable land at one time, but has sold off a part of his holdings, and now owns 160 acres. He is an extensive breeder of Shorthorn cattle and has exhibited his fine live stock



at the county fairs with great success, and has carried away the sweep stake prizes and other secondary awards. He is also a breeder of standard Percheron horses, and takes a just and abiding pride in his fine live stock.

Mr. Allison was married November 7, 1872, to Miss Emma Berger, and to this union have been born three children, namely: Roland, a farmer in Nemaha township; Marsh, farming in Nemaha township; Martha, at home with her parents. Mrs. Allison was born January 30, 1850, in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, and is a daughter of Marcus and Emily (Scoville) Berger, natives of New England, who immigrated to Kansas in 1870, and settled on a farm in Washington township, Nemaha county, where they died.

Mr. Allison is a member and a supporter of the Nemaha County Fair Association, is a Republican in politics, and has filled the local offices of road overseer, school director, and township treasurer, and is a member of the Farmers' Union.

**Charles H. Bell.**—The reviewer, in tracing the life career of Charles H. Bell, Union veteran, pioneer, and large landed proprietor of Nemaha county, Kansas, must necessarily begin with his birth in Indiana, and trace his rise from workman to his present position of wealth and prestige, which he is now enjoying after a long life time of ceaseless endeavor. We must follow his wanderings from the old home in Indiana to the battlefields of the South where he risked his life and limb in defense of the Union; go with him to the gold fields and the wide reaches of the great California valley—to the mountains where he delved for the precious metals; thence to the flat lands of the valleys where he followed the vocation of rancher; thence to southwest Missouri, and lastly to Kansas, where his later fortunes were cast with final success.

Charles H. Bell of Oneida was born in St. Joseph county, Indiana, August 31, 1845, and is a son of Samuel and Sarah (Harris) Bell, natives of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania respectively, and descendants of old American Colonial stock. The grandfather of Sarah (Harris) Bell was born in Scotland, and her grandmother was born in Germany. Samuel Bell was a pioneer settler in Indiana and was also one of the first homesteaders in Buchanan county, Missouri. He preempted land on the present site of St. Joseph, and later returned to St. Joseph county, Indiana, where he died in 1848. His widow reared the large family of thirteen children and two nieces in Indiana. She was a remarkable woman. She went to Colorado when seventy years of age and homesteaded land, creating a farm, which was her home until her death in 1901, when she departed this life at the great age of eighty-two years.

Charles H. Bell attended school in a log school house which was fitted up with slab benches. His father died when he was three years old, and his mother, of necessity, reared the family of thirteen children left fatherless. Charles remained at home until he was seventeen years old and then enlisted February, 1862, in Company I, One Hundred Fifty-





CHARLES H. BELL.



MRS. CHARLES H. BELL.



fifth Indiana regiment of volunteers. He was decidedly under the required age for enlistment, and also had a younger brother, John, in the army, and two older brothers, Stuart and Jacob, also fought in defense of the Union. His service was in Virginia and the Southeast, and he served creditably until his honorable discharge from the service in November, 1865, in Delaware. After working on the home farm for another season, he went to Illinois and hired out as a farm hand at \$26 per month for two years, and then crossed the continent to California. When he arrived on the coast, he spent two months in the gold mines, but taking a dislike to the work, he secured employment on a ranch where he was employed until 1875. He then rented 3,000 acres of land in partnership with Henry Cooper, with whom he raised crops of wheat and barley for two years. His first year's work was a total loss; the hot winds coming and destroying the crops. Time was extended to them, however, and with help from their creditors, they made good during the second year, and were able to clear \$1,500 each above all indebtedness. Mr. Bell then sold his half interest in the lease to a Mr. Goble, and returned home for a visit. It was well that he did so because his former partner and Mr. Goble went broke that same year on account of hot winds and another drought. After a six months' visit among the old home scenes he went to Newton county, Missouri, and bought 200 acres of land, including forty acres of timber, which was partly improved by two small log cabins. In 1878 he rented his Newton county farm, and spent the season in logging and clearing his forty-acre tract of timber. He again moved to his farm in the following autumn, and remained tilling his acreage until 1881, at which time he sold out and came directly to Nemaha county, Kansas. On his way he drove 100 head of cattle which he traded for 140 acres of land and assumed a mortgage of \$1,000. The first farm which he owned in this county had a frame house of five rooms and a barn 16x20 feet. He rented this farm to his brother, William, for a year, and then returned to Missouri and worked out by the month. At the end of a year, he again came to Nemaha county and traded his farm to John Boxwell for 100 acres near Oneida, Boxwell assuming the \$1,000 mortgage. He erected a nine room house with two cellars underneath at a cost of \$1,800 and built a barn 50x32 feet. A cyclone came along in 1896 and entirely destroyed his barn and damaged his house to the extent of \$500, the strong wind tearing down the chimneys and denuding the walls of plastering. Strange to relate, one of his horses, which was in the barn, escaped injury. Mr. Bell soon repaired the damage to the premises, and resided on the place until 1901. In the meantime, in 1895, he had purchased 160 acres which adjoined his first farm, and, in 1896, added eighty acres, and in 1901, bought 120 acres also adjoining. He erected two barns, 52x46 feet and 32x52 feet in dimensions, and also built an eight-room house, which is the present residence. This fine home is modernized and fitted with electric lights in all buildings on the place. Mr. Bell is an extensive dealer in Shorthorn cattle, and deals in feeders and stockers. He is one of the

largest cattlemen in Nemaha county. The last addition which he made to his holdings was a tract of 160 acres in Adams township, and he now owns 625 acres in all.

Mr. Bell was married, in 1879, to Miss Lottie Cawyer, born in Missouri in 1861, and who departed this life in 1880, leaving one child, Mrs. Bertha Hoops, who lives in Montgomery county, Kansas, and has six children. In 1882, Mr. Bell married Miss Maggie Quimby, who has borne him six children, as follows: Mrs. Bessie Lenhart, Rock Spring, Wy.; Abbie; Hilbert C.; Edna; Wayne, and Orville. Mrs. Bell was born in Wayne county, Illinois, March 10, 1866, and came with her parents to Missouri in 1878.

Charles H. Bell is a Republican in politics, and he and Mrs. Bell are affiliated fraternally with the Knights and Ladies of Security. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. Mr. Bell has the very remarkable record of having never been sick, and is strong and hearty at the age of seventy-one years. During the past forty years the doctor's bill for medical services for his family has not exceeded fifty dollars.

**John J. Skoch**, owner and manager of 160 acres of excellent farm land in section 25, Clear Creek township, Nemaha county, Kansas, is a Bohemian by birth, and is a son of Frank Skoch, who resides on a farm adjoining that of his son.

Frank Skoch was born at Trabre, Bohemia, in January, 1843, and is a son of Frank and Mary (Schmach) Skoch. He immigrated to America in 1870, and worked in the ore mines near Alleghany, Pa., until 1877, when he came West to Nemaha county, Kansas. During the first seven years of his residence in this county, he rented land, and was enabled to buy 160 acres in Clear Creek township, where he is now residing. He was married when a young man to Anna, daughter of Frank and Kathrine (Kaulhaus) Bustrice, and who was born November 11, 1846. To this union have been born nine children, namely: John J., the subject of this review; Frank, a farmer in Clear Creek township; Mrs. Mary Droppleman, Phillips county, Kansas; Mrs. Anna Mitchell, Clear Creek township; Mrs. Barbara Mulrine, St. Bridget, Kans.; Mrs. Maggie Engelken, Marshall county, Kansas; Josephine, a teacher for the past fifteen years, now teaching in Marshall county; Venzle, on the home place; Mrs. Rosa Oldenburg, Marion township.

John J. Skoch was born June 20, 1869, in Bohemia, and was one year old when his parents left Bohemia, and came to Pennsylvania. He was reared to young manhood on his father's farm in Nemaha county, and began his own career as a farm hand, starting to work for \$17 per month, and later receiving \$22 per month. In 1890, he rented forty acres from his father and others in Clear Creek township for one year, then worked out until 1893. His first purchase of land was in section 28, Clear Creek township, where he bought eighty acres, which he farmed for eight years, and then traded for his present farm of 160 acres in section 25. Mr. Skoch has a neat seven room farm residence,

painted a straw color, and his home is located about ten miles northwest of Seneca. He keeps high grade stock on his place, and has about one acre of orchard.

John J. Skoch was married, in 1893, to Anna, daughter of Bernard and Elizabeth (Starmann) Dropplemann, and she was born in Doddridge county, West Virginia, where she resided until 1891, and then came to Kansas to keep house for her brother, who was farming in Marshall county, Kansas. Bernard Dropplemann was born in 1809 in German; immigrated to America and died at his home in Doddridge county, West Virginia, in 1894. His wife, Elizabeth, was born in Holland in 1823, and died in 1908. They were the parents of twelve children, three of whom are deceased.

Five children have been born to John J. Skoch and wife, namely: Mrs. Ernestine Bergmann, Clear Creek township, born November 20, 1894, taught school for three years; Edward, born May 13, 1896; Albert, born November 2, 1899; Edna, born March 12, 1896; Emma, born June 10, 1908.

Mr. and Mrs. Skoch and the children are loyal members of the Catholic church. Mr. Skoch is affiliated with the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association, and he and his family are prominent socially in the county. Mr. Skoch is one of the Democratic leaders of the county, and has always taken an active and influential part in civic and political affairs. He has held office in his township for the past twenty years, and has held the post of central committeeman for his party; filled the post of road overseer and township treasurer. He is now a member of the school board of district 56. Mr. Skoch is one of the best known men of Nemaha county, and is a wide awake citizen who takes a keen interest in community matters, and is greatly interested in the welfare of the people of Nemaha county.

**John T. Baker**, successful farmer of Nemaha township, was born in Nemaha county, Kansas, January 1, 1878, and is a son of August and Margarette (Quirk) Baker. August Baker was born in Germany in 1842 and came to America with his mother, first settling in New York State. Later, August Baker came to Kansas with a family by the name of Sly, who had adopted him after the demise of his parents in the early fifties. He died at the home of his son, December 31, 1915. The mother of John T. Baker was twice married, and died about 1895.

John T. Baker was reared on the farm which he now owns and is cultivating 200 acres of land in section 16, Nemaha township. He was married in 1897 to Bertha Hartman and seven children have blessed this union, namely: Irene, Mary, John, Bertha, Edith, Alice and Edward. Mrs. Baker was born in Nemaha township in 1875 and is a daughter of Fred and Bertha Hartman, at present living on a farm in Nemaha township, where Mrs. Hartman died November 11, 1915.

Mr. and Mrs. Baker are members of the Catholic church and take an active interest in the social and religious affairs of this strong religious

organization. Mr. Baker has taken a prominent and influential part in the affairs of the Democratic political organization in his township and county and served for eight years as treasurer of Nemaha township. He is now serving as a member of the school board of District No. 28.

**John F. Kerl**, Union veteran, and farmer of Nemaha township, was born in New York City, N. Y., August 3, 1847, and is a son of Lewis and Martha (Ketchum) Kerl, natives of Germany. Lewis Kerl, his father, was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1816, and became a skilled cabinet maker. When a young man he emigrated from the Fatherland to New York and followed his trade of cabinet maker in that city with considerable success. He made furniture for some of the distinguished New York people of his time, and it is recorded in the family archives that this skilled mechanic made a bedstead for the home of John Jacob Astor which cost \$136 in the making. He also plied his trade in the city of Pittsburg, Pa., until 1880, when he immigrated westward to Pawnee county, Nebraska, where he farmed until his demise in 1905. This was not his first experience in farming, however, as he had farmed to some extent in the vicinity of Pittsburg. There were eleven children born to Lewis and Martha Kerl, of whom four are deceased. Martha, wife of Lewis Kerl, was born in Prussia in 1826 and departed this life in 1900. When she was three years of age her parents emigrated from Germany to New Jersey, where her father became a large land owner and died there after several years' residence.

John F. Kerl attended the public schools of Beaver county, Pennsylvania, and at the president's call for troops with which to quell the rebellion of the Southern States, he enlisted in Company C, Fifty-sixth Pennsylvania infantry, and his command saw much active service in the eastern division of the Union armies under Gen. U. S. Grant. He was discharged from the infantry service in 1863, and re-enlisted in the Sixth heavy artillery regiment and saw service in the southeast and the Carolinas and was engaged in several battles until his final discharge in 1864. After the war, Mr. Kerl learned the blacksmith's trade in the town of Harmony, Pa., and worked at his trade until 1881, when he abandoned it entirely and has since devoted himself to farming pursuits. Mr. Kerl migrated to Kansas in 1879 and bought eighty acres of land in section 6, Nemaha township, this county, and the years which have passed since that time have seen his fortune improve until he has become the owner of 448 acres of western lands.

John F. Kerl has been twice married, his first marriage occurring in 1873 with Agnes Hebblerling, a native of Pennsylvania, who died in 1876 at the age of twenty-one years, leaving three children, as follows: Wilbert, living in Nebraska; John, a farmer in Clear Creek township; Emanuel, a farmer of Richardson county, Nebraska. March 25, 1877, Mr. Kerl married Miss Mary A. Myers, who was born at Pittsburg, Pa., December 18, 1856, and has borne him eight children, as follows: Mrs. Florence Wright, Nemaha county, Kansas; Mrs. Mar-

garet Westfall, Idaho; Edward, farming in Clear Creek township; Eva, wife of J. Lockard, (see sketch); Mrs. Anna Boren, Nebraska; Grant, living in Pawnee county, Nebraska; Lawrence and Ralph.

Mr. Kerl is an independent Republican voter who refuses to wear the party yoke and judges the various candidates for office according to their personal qualifications. He and Mrs. Kerl are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church and he belongs to no secret order but the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization whose membership, year by year, as the once mighty host of tried and true veterans are one by one going to their reward, is growing smaller and smaller. To the mind of the reviewer there is nothing in the life of the aged parent of which his posterity can take greater or more lasting and enduring pride than the fact that the father of the family shouldered a musket and marched under the Stars and Stripes to battle for the preservation of the Union.

**August Korber** is one of the most conspicuous farmers of Nemaha county. He comes from excellent German stock, of which he is justly proud. His father, Henry Korber, was born in Germany in 1826. When a young man, he left his native province of Hanover, and sailed for America to search for a livelihood in the great land of the free, and found employment near Chicago where he worked for several years. We read every day now about this great metropolis of the West, but to realize the changing times through which Henry Korber passed, it might be interesting to state that when he settled near Chicago in the early days, he could have bought eighty acres of land, which now lies in the heart of Chicago's business district at a price of \$150. Now a front foot of a city lot would bring several hundred times that price. He came to Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1856, and purchased 160 acres in Nemaha township, section 12. On this rough land he built a rude log cabin, and established himself to withstand the hard, cold winters of Kansas. He broke up his land with a yoke of plodding oxen, and where he spent a whole day driving the leisurely animals along the furrow, modern tractors now rattle over the ground in a fraction of the time required under the old way. Mr. Korber saw many changes in his lifetime, and one of these was in the growth of commercial facilities in Nemaha county. When he came to Kansas, his nearest trading points were White Cloud, Kans., and St. Joseph, Mo., but in his lifetime, he saw the territory around him develop and attract business interests, until it became surrounded with towns filled with stores and business houses. Mr. Korber was a farmer of excellent ability and unusually good judgment, which accounts for his success. He continually made improvements on his farm, and increased his holdings gradually until, at the time of his death, he owned 1,120 acres of fertile farm land in Kansas and Nebraska. He was an active farmer until 1898, when declining years forced him to retire. In 1900, he moved to Bern, and the following year, in 1901, he died.

The mother of the subject of this biography, Theresa (Irsik) Korber, was born in Germany in 1838, and she came to America at an early age. She is now living in Bern, Kans. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Korber, all except one of whom are living.

August Korber was born February 9, 1871, in Nemaha township, Nemaha county, Kansas. He was reared on his father's farm in Nemaha township, and from his parents he learned the essentials of successful farming, which have helped to make him one of the most successful men in his township. Save for a rudimentary schooling at district 52, Mr. Korber spent his time on the farm. At the death of his father, he became heir to one half section of land, which, though it was unimproved, was of excellent fertility. From the profits on this land, Mr. Korber has increased his holdings to 500 acres. He has always been proud of his farm, and has taken great interest in keeping its appearance up to a high standard. In 1913, Mr. Korber erected an eight room residence on his place, which is one of the finest houses in his district, being strictly modern, with an electric light plant operated in connection. The house, because of its white color, is exceedingly attractive to travelers, and they invariably pause to look at the place. Mr. Korber spent \$3,600 on his residence, and has spared no pains to make his home convenient in every respect. On his farm, he keeps a fine line of graded stock, in which he takes great pride. On his land, which is in section 14, he has forty acres in natural timber of advanced growth.

December 18, 1901, Mr. Korber was married to Theresa Bohm, a daughter of John and Bertha (Poppe) Bohm, who were natives of Germany. Mrs. Korber was born June 23, 1880, in Nemaha county, Kansas, though she was reared on a Nebraska farm. Her mother is living in Pawnee county, Nebraska, but her father was killed in an accident in which he fell from a wagon, July 5, 1913. To Mr. and Mrs. Korber, these five children were born: John, Alvin, Paul, Leon, and Leona, all of whom are living with their parents.

Mr. Korber is a man of individuality and independence of thought, and very naturally would be expected to be an independent voter, which he is. He has never held public office, though he is keenly interested in political affairs, and keeps up with the times, as far as public matters are concerned. Mr. and Mrs. Korber profess the faith of the Evangelical Lutheran church, of which they are communicants.

**Emil Hecht** is a native Kansan and was born on the farm which he now occupies, March 13, 1888. His father, William Hecht, was born in Will county, Illinois, March 1, 1857, and his parents, Henry and Miss (Berance) Hecht, were natives of Germany. William Hecht came with his father and mother to Kansas in 1871 and settled in Nemaha county where he lived until his retirement to a home at Dubois, Neb. The mother was born June 9, 1863, in Will county, Illinois, and was a daughter of Henry and Miss (Heideman) Most, who were natives of Ger-



many. They came to America and settled, about 1879, in Nemaha county, Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Hecht were the parents of three children: Mrs. Lillie Bredemeier, of Nemaha township; Emil, of whom this article is written, and Edwin, now deceased.

Emil Hecht was reared on his father's farm and attended school in district No. 8. He has always remained with his father and mother on the farm and has been a steady and industrious worker. He is now renting 200 acres of land from his father from which he is making a comfortable income.

He was married to Rosa Siske, November 3, 1915. She was born January 12, 1893, in Pawnee county, Nebraska, and is the daughter of Ferdinald and Sophia (Boehmer) Siske. The father was born in Germany in 1863, and is now living in Pawnee county, Nebraska. Her mother was born in Pawnee county, Nebraska, in 1868. Eight children were born to them, all of whom are living at this time.

Emil Hecht is a Republican and professes the faith of the Evangelical Lutheran church. He is one of the best known farmers and stockmen of Nemaha township and is known for his personal integrity and general good character. He is a valuable member of his community and is always ready to give his support to any worthy cause.

**Bernard Rottinghaus.**—We are living in the age of specialists. Not only in the learned sciences and manufactures is it essential that a man be a specialist in his particular line, but of late years, the progressive and ambitious farmer is likewise branching out in particular lines, other than the routine of general farming. Bernard Rottinghaus, whose name heads this review, is one of the successful specialists in the breeding of Poland China hogs and Clydesdale horses in Nemaha county, Kansas. He is also a breeder of Shorthorn cattle, and has exhibited his live stock at the county fairs with considerable success. His pure bred swine are in demand among the farmers of the neighborhood, and he has shipped the product of his pens to parties at a distance.

Bernard Rottinghaus, of Nemaha township, was born in Oldenburg, Germany, September 13, 1871, and is a son of Bernard and Agnes (Morman) Rottinghaus, concerning whom the reader is referred to the biography of Henry Rottinghaus in this volume. Bernard Rottinghaus, the subject of this review, came to America with his parents in 1877, and, for the first two years, lived in Richmond township, where his father rented a farm. The family then moved to the farm in Nemaha township, which Bernard now owns. The home farm of the Rottinghaus family consists of eighty acres of well improved land in section 33. Mr. Rottinghaus received a good common school education, and lived with his parents and came into possession of the home place when their demise occurred. When a young man, he became interested in fine live stock, and has made this special departure in farming his hobby for several years to his personal profit and renown. He attended school in the Liberty district of Richmond township, until seven years

of age, and then went to St. Benedict's school until he was twelve years old. He has added to the original home place of eighty acres, until he now owns 130 acres of land, which is one of the well improved farms of the county. Mr. Rottinghaus has farmed the place since leaving school, and began his activity in special farming methods when twenty-two years of age.

Mr. Rottinghaus was married June 7, 1892, to Miss Mary Engelken. Mrs. Mary (Engelken) Rottinghaus was born in Allamakee county, Iowa, December 3, 1873, and is a daughter of John Engelken, concerning whom an extended review is given in this history.

Mr. Rottinghaus is a staunch Republican in his political views, and is one of the real leaders of the Republican party in Nemaha county. Being a well read man who keeps up with the times by constant study and reading, he is eminently fitted for leadership, and has served the people as clerk and treasurer of Nemaha township. For the past sixteen years, he has been a member of the school board of school district No. 68. He and his wife are members of the Catholic church, and Mr. Rottinghaus is affiliated with the Knights of Columbus. He is one of the foremost farmers of Nemaha county, and is always found in the forefront of all movements tending to advance the interests of the farmers, and to better the agricultural progress of the county.

**Anton Nolte**, farmer and widely known and successful live stock breeder, was born on the farm which he now owns, in Center township, September 19, 1891, and is a son of Alois and Mary Ann (Bartka) Nolte, who were the parents of fourteen children. Alois Nolte was born at Kraiss-Hoexter in Westphalia, Germany, December 3, 1846, and learned the trade of stone mason in his youth. When he attained the age of eighteen years, he made his way to America and settled at St. Louis, Mo., and there plied his trade of mason, and was married in that city in 1871. Two years after his marriage he migrated to Nemaha county, Kansas, and engaged in farming on eighty acres of land, which he purchased in Marion township. The first home of the Nolte's in Kansas was a one room house, and the barn which they used was built of prairie hay. In this home six of the children were born, and then the elder Nolte bought eighty acres in section 1, Center township, and made improvements according to his means, which were still limited. He set out an orchard and otherwise beautified the prairie, and prosperity smiled upon him in the course of years of ceaseless endeavor and good management, and he eventually became the owner of 320 acres. He became a prominent resident of his township and filled the office of justice of the peace for two years previous to his demise on January 9, 1915. Alois Nolte was the son of John and Elizabeth (Trapham) Nolte, who were tillers of the soil in Westphalia, Germany. The wife of Alois Nolte, and mother of the subject of this review, was born October 26, 1851, in St. Louis, Mo., and was a daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Hartbeck) Bartka, who were the parents of six children, of whom three are living. Henry Bartka was



ALOIS NOLTE AND FAMILY.



born in Germany and was a laborer who immigrated to America and died at Quincy, Ill., at the age of eighty-four years. The mother of Anton Nolte is an industrious, hard working woman, who assisted her husband in tilling his land, while rearing her large family of fourteen children. She is yet living, and is just as thorough in her work and just as active as in her younger days.

Anton Nolte attended the district school and Sts. Peter and Paul's parochial schools at Seneca, Kans., and for some time, has been managing the family estate. He keeps high grade Durham cattle and Poland China hogs, and is an excellent and industrious farmer, who learned the art of tilling the soil from a competent parent. He is a Democrat in politics, a member of the Knights of Columbus, and is unmarried.

The remarkable family of fourteen children reared to maturity by Alois and Mary Ann Nolte, are as follows: Henry, working at the Red elevator, Seneca, Kans.; Mrs. Fredericka Busse, St. Paul, Kans.; Katharine, deceased; Mrs. Theresa Rothers, deceased, left four children, all of whom Mrs. Nolte is assisting their father in rearing; Mrs. Mary Domann, Winchester, Jackson county, Kansas; Caroline, Sister Consalati, O. S. B., at Mt. St. Scholastica's, Atchison, Kans.; Alois married Mary Krogmann, and lives in Center township; John, farming in Center township; Charles, on the home place; Clare, wife of B. Kramer, Mitchell township; Joseph, a photographer, Hanover, Kans.; Anton, at home; Leo, at home; Elizabeth, at home.

Anton is a shareholder of the Farmers Union Elevator Company of Seneca, and is an aggressive and capable young man, who is well liked by all who know him. It is safe to predict a splendid career for him in the years to come.

When the Nolte family came to Nemaha county, they were so poor that Alois Nolte was compelled to borrow money with which to purchase the necessities of life when the family settled on their farm. When they moved to the present home place, there was not even shelter for their hogs and many other conveniences were lacking, which, in time, were accumulated, and the year 1902 witnessed the erection of the present comfortable habitation of the family. The elder Nolte was a hard working man who was exact in his methods of doing business, and kept a diary in which he recorded his daily doings and transactions.

**Frank H. Holthaus**, farmer and agent for foreign ticket passage via the Trans-Atlantic Steamship Lines, was born in Oldenburg, Germany, June 14, 1875, and is a son of Franz and Josephine (Liening) Holthaus, natives of Germany. See biography of F. J. Holthaus, banker, of Seneca, Kans., for particulars concerning the life of Franz and Josephine Holthaus. Frank H. Holthaus left his native land enroute to America, September 21, 1891. Previous to this time he had been employed as steward and captain of stewards on German vessels, fast mail steamships, but resigned his position in 1891, and decided to settle in Kansas. He came to Nemaha county and worked out as farm hand on the farms

near Seneca until 1900 and then invested his savings in his present farm in section 31, Richmond township. He is the owner of 312 acres of excellent farm land, which he has improved as he was able. He erected a modern nine-room residence in 1907, and in the following year Mr. Holthaus built a large barn. All of the buildings on the place are painted white and present an attractive appearance.

Mr. Holthaus was married in 1896 to Miss Josephine Rethmann, who has borne him nine children, as follows: Agnes, Joseph, Clementina, Cornelius, Mary, Karl, Lawrence, Bernard and Cyril. Mrs. Holthaus was born in Marion township, April 15, 1877, and is a daughter of Clements and Agnes Lutmerding Rethmann, natives of Germany, concerning whom a review is given in this work.

Mr. Holthaus is a Democrat who has taken a prominent part in the political affairs of his township and county. He served as treasurer of Richmond township in 1910. He and Mrs. Holthaus are members of the Catholic church and he is affiliated with the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association. In addition to his farming interests, Mr. Holthaus conducts an agency for foreign steamship tickets which he began in 1900. In 1912 he sold twelve tickets to England and sells as high as twenty tickets annually to travelers from Seneca to foreign lands. He represents the following trans-Atlantic steamship lines: North German Lloyd, Hamburg-American Line, Holland-American Line, Cunard Line, White Star Line, and Red Star Line, American Line and Angeline Line.

**Joseph Olberding** is one of the public spirited men of Richmond township and is a prosperous farmer and stockman. He has held public office with great credit and has managed his excellent farm on a high plane of efficiency. Such men are a credit to any community and especially so when, as is the case of Mr. Olberding, they are adopted sons of the United States and serve it with a loyalty as strong as their brothers back in war-torn Europe show to the mother land.

Mr. Olberding was born in Oldenburg, Germany, September 26, 1866, and was a son of Anton and Caroline (Berding) Olberding. The father was born in Germany in 1813, was a sailor for thirty years and in season followed the occupation of farming. In old age he came to America, locating in Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1882, where he lived until his death, December 8, 1887. The mother was born in 1823 and died in June, 1895. To this union six children were born, as follows: Dina, wife of F. Blocker, Richmond township, Nemaha county, Kansas; Clements, Marion township; Frank, Marion township; Anna, wife of H. Wilmhof, now deceased, living in Germany; Anton, Marion township; Joseph, of whom this review is written.

Joseph Olberding left Germany with his parents and being a strong young man, he found work in America on a farm and for seven years he labored as a farm hand for different men. Then having accumulated a small sum sufficient to start out on his own footing, Joseph bought eighty acres in Marion township, but sold this property in 1890 and

bought 120 acres also in Marion township, which he held three years, when he sold it to buy 146 acres in Richmond township, section 30, and this he farmed until 1898 when he purchased the farm in section 31 which he now owns. On this place he has built extensive improvements, including a fine house and barn. He has increased his farming land to something like 400 acres of land, all good soil, scattered about in various parts of Nemaha county. Mr. Olberding is a fancier of fine stock and takes great pride in showing his animals to visitors. Nothing but high grade stock is kept on his farm and his Durham cattle, Duroc Jersey hogs and Percheron horses deserve high praise, for they are among the best to be seen in this part of the county.

In 1889 he was married to Mary Rethmann, who was born January 14, 1872, in Cincinnati, Ohio. She is the daughter of Clements Rethmann, whose history is recorded in the biography of her brother, Charles Rethmann, which appears elsewhere in this volume. Twelve children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Olberding: August and Joseph, twins, latter deceased, August living in Marion township; Edward, Marion township; Anna, Benedict, Rose, Leo, Edith, Joseph, Mary and Agnes, living at home; John, fifth child, deceased.

Mr. Olberding's public life ought to be emphasized, because he has shown how useful a man may be even though he was born under another flag. Mr. Olberding has held office a number of terms, but throughout his entire public career he has always maintained an attitude of independence toward the political party with which he usually identifies himself. He is a Democrat first, last and all the time, but when he feels that it is obviously wrong to support that ticket, he then asserts his right to vote independently of a party label. He was elected township trustee in 1901 for a period of two years and again in 1912 and re-elected in 1914. He is treasurer of school district No. 96. Mr. Olberding holds membership in the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association and has been reared in the Roman Catholic faith.

**Benjamin F. Scanlan** is one of the well known farmers and stockmen of Marion township, and is a prosperous and public spirited citizen. He was born October 9, 1874, in Marshall county, Kansas, and was a son of Thomas and Kathrine (Ramsey) Scanlan. Thomas Scanlan was born in Ireland, February 22, 1830, and came to the United States when a lad of nineteen. He settled in Virginia, and as this was about the time when the controversy which led to the Civil war was growing bitter, he became deeply interested in the matter, which was of such vital interest to all citizens of this country. Naturally, as he lived in a southern State, his sympathies were with the Confederacy, and if he later came to see that, perhaps, the South was mistaken, he was honest in his views, and was ready to fight for what he believed to be right. He enlisted in the cause of the South soon after the outbreak of the war, and continued in service until the battle of Gettysburg, where he was wounded in the knee, and forced to leave the fighting line. In 1869, he

came to Marshall county, Kansas, and bought land near Axtell and, ten years later, he bought 320 acres in Marion township, section 29, Nemaha county, Kansas, and the following year, moved on the place, and began making improvements. He farmed this land with success until his retirement in 1902, when he returned to Axtell, where he died in 1912. The mother of Benjamin Scanlan was born in Virginia, December 25, 1842, and is now living in Axtell. To her were born thirteen children, eleven of whom are living.

Benjamin Scanlan was reared on the farm of his father, and attended the district school near Baileyville, Kans., and also in Grant district. He has spent all of his life on the farm with his parents, and has been a steady worker. He is now farming 480 acres of land, 320 acres of which he owns, this latter including the old home place. His brother, Frank, helps him in farming the land. Benjamin lives in Axtell with his mother and sister. He is unmarried, and is a member of the Catholic church. Mr. Scanlan votes the Democratic ticket, though he is of the independent branch of his party, and is inclined to look more to the man, than to the party affiliations, in voting for candidates.

Mr. Scanlan keeps stock of a very high grade on his farm, and takes great pride in it. His farm is well improved, and is managed on a sound, business-like basis, and Mr. Scanlan is recognized as being one of Nemaha county's successful farmers.

**Frederick W. Severin.**—Clover Leaf Farm, owned and managed by Frederick W. Severin, in Marion township, Nemaha county, Kansas, is noted for its fine pure bred live stock. For several years Mr. Severin has been a breeder of Hereford cattle, Duroc Jersey hogs, of which he is an extensive feeder, and White Leghorn poultry. This farm is located two and one-half miles south and east of Axtell, Kans., and four miles west and north of Baileyville. It is one of the best improved farms in this section of the State and is managed and cultivated along the most advanced agricultural lines to the satisfaction and profit of the owner. Clover Leaf Farm is a clean, up-to-date agricultural plant and is known far and wide for its products.

Frederick W. Severin was born in Doddridge county, West Virginia, February 19, 1874, and is a son of Frederick J. and Julia Ann (Rahrig) Severin, natives of Germany and Maryland, respectively. Fred J. Severin was born in 1820 and emigrated from his native fatherland to Maryland in 1842 and was there united in marriage with Julia Ann Rahrig, who was born near Cumberland, Maryland, October 18, 1839. Soon after their marriage they removed to West Virginia in 1858 and followed farming until the death of Frederick J., December 24, 1884. The wife and mother died November 27, 1875. They, Frederick and Julia Ann Severin, were the parents of six sons and two daughters, of whom the subject of this review is the youngest child. Joseph Severin, a brother of Frederick W., resides on a farm in Marion township, and a sister, Mrs. Mary Van Verth, also lives in Marion township, Nemaha county.



Frederick W. Severin attended the district schools of his native county and State and studied in the Parkersburg Business College. He became a farmer and also cultivated his father's estate in Doddridge county until 1902, at which time he sold out and came west, and after a short residence in Doniphan county, Kansas, located in Nemaha county, where he invested in 240 acres of good land in Marion township, in section 19. Mr. Severin has prospered since coming to Kansas and has increased his land holdings in this county to a total of 320 acres in Marion township. In addition to this he has a half interest in 160 acres of Colorado land and owns shares in coal and oil fields in his native State of West Virginia.

Mr. Severin was married to Miss Clara Rastle, September 12, 1890, and this marriage has been blessed with eight children, as follows: Urban, born in West Virginia; Regina M., Geneva, Francis, Barnard, Henry, Anna M., and Frederick W. Jr., an infant, all born in Kansas. The mother of these children was born in Lewis county, West Virginia, May 2, 1875, and is a daughter of Conrad and Mary (Shaner) Rastle, natives of Austria, and who are now residing in their old home in Lewis county, West Virginia. Conrad Rastle was born in 1842 and his wife was born in 1848. Mrs. Severin is a very talented lady and has considerable artistic ability, which enables her to produce attractive drawings and paintings of landscapes on canvas. Her work has been exhibited at the Nemaha county fair and has drawn favorable and admiring comment from visitors.

Politically, Mr. Severin is a Democrat and he and his family belong to the Catholic church. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus. Although the Severin family are among the newcomers to Kansas, they have taken their place among the representative families of this section and are avowed Kansans, just as loyal to the Sunflower State as the oldest pioneer can be. They like Kansas and Nemaha county likes the Severins, and more of their class would be welcome to help build up the country.

**William C. Ford**, of Marion township, Nemaha county, farmer and stockman, was born in Peoria county, Illinois, October 16, 1858, and is a son of John and Mary (Carter) Ford, who were the parents of seven children, five of whom are living. John Ford was born in Devonshire, England, in 1825, and died in Kansas in 1903. He left his native country in 1850, and followed farming in Ohio, moving westward to Illinois, where the subject of this review was born. The family resided in Illinois until 1874, and then migrated west to Marshall county, Kansas, where John Ford bought a farm near the village of Mina, which he improved and, a few years before his demise, retired to Axtell, Kans. His wife, Mary, was born in Devonshire, England, in 1826, and died in 1899. The remains of both parents are interred in Shockley cemetery. They were members of the Presbyterian church. To John and Mary Ford were born the following children: Elizabeth, wife of J.

Plummer, deceased; John, deceased; George, living in Abilene, Kans.; Mrs. Mary Manley, of Mina, Marshall county, Kansas; William C., with whom this review is directly concerned; Mrs. Emma Packard, deceased; Joseph, of Abilene, Kans.

When William C. Ford was eighteen years of age, he began working as farm hand for himself at the wage of \$15 per month, and was thus employed for about nine years. He then, in 1878, rented an eighty acre farm for two years, and was enabled to purchase 160 acres of prairie land in Marshall county, which he improved and sold at a profit in 1886. He then bought a tract of land in section 19, Marion township, Nemaha county, which he cultivated for six years and sold in 1892. In the latter year, he bought 240 acres of his present farm in section 18, and erected thereon a large eight room residence, modern in many respects, and improved his place for a permanent home. He has prospered during past years, and is now the owner of 365 acres of good land, ten acres of his home place being in natural timber. Mr. Ford has been a breeder of Shorthorn cattle, which he exhibited at the various stock shows and county fairs. Mr. Ford is a large feeder of cattle, and has found that the feeding of live stock for the market pays handsomely.

Mr. Ford was united in marriage with Sarah Hampton, in 1885, and this marriage has been blessed with the following children: Henrietta, wife of William Creevan of Axtell, Kans.; Mary E., wife of D. E. McIntosh, of Topeka, Kans.; John and Vera, at home; Frank, the first born of the family, is deceased. The two eldest living children are graduates of the Axtell High School and studied in Washburn College at Topeka, Kans., and both taught school for a number of years. The mother of these children was born July 20, 1859, in Tazewell county, Illinois, and is a daughter of James and Jane (Bradshaw) Hampton, natives of the South and Indiana respectively. The father of Mrs. Ford died in Illinois, and the widowed mother came to Kansas with her children in 1881. There were four children born to James and Mary Hampton, as follows: Sarah, wife of William C. Ford; Mrs. Henrietta Davis, deceased; Thomas W., of Fairbury, Neb.; John, living in Seneca, Kans.

Mr. Ford is allied with the Democratic party, and is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Axtell, Kans., and is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. Mrs. Ford is religiously allied with the Methodist church.

**James E. Kirk.**—The Kirk family is one of the real pioneer families of Kansas, the migration of the family from Illinois to Brown county, Kansas, having taken place fifty-two years ago, in the spring following the birth of James E. Kirk, prosperous and well known farmer of Clear Creek township, Nemaha county. He whose name heads this review was born on a farm in Hancock county, Illinois, January 8, 1864, a son of Lewis Amos and Mary A. Henderson) Kirk, who were natives of West

Virginia and Ireland, respectively. Lewis A. Kirk was born in June, 1828, and was a son of Lewis Kirk, a native of Scotland, who emigrated from his native land in a very early day and married a Miss Overholser, of Pennsylvania. After a residence of some years in West Virginia he made a settlement in Ohio, where Lewis Amos was reared and married to Mary A. Henderson, born in Ireland in 1831 and left her native land when twelve years of age with her parents and came to America. After this marriage Lewis A. Kirk migrated to Hancock county, Illinois, where he resided until 1864. Attracted by the tales of the cheap and rich lands to be had in the West, he migrated to Brown county, Kansas, in 1864, and invested in 160 acres of land, upon which he built a log cabin and reared his family. He later moved to Jackson county, where he died in 1896. The wife and mother died in 1907.

James E. Kirk was reared to young manhood in Brown county and received a district school education. He has grown up with Kansas and is one of the genuine pioneers of the State. He settled in Nemaha county in 1878 and purchased a tract of raw land, which he has since improved considerably. He is now the owner of 440 acres of land in Clear Creek and Marion townships and has been a breeder of Hereford cattle for some years.

Mr. Kirk was united in marriage with Miss Adeline Wagor in 1897, and Mr. and Mrs. Kirk have had born to them twelve children, as follows: Nellie, deceased; Floyd, a farmer in Marion township; Mrs. Pearl E. Connet, in Marion township; Mrs. Bertha Bare, living in Marshall county, Kansas; one died in infancy; Rena, George, Marie, Geneva, Howard, Edna, at home, and James R., deceased. Mrs. Adeline Kirk was born January 6, 1870, near Winterset, Iowa, and is a daughter of Bernard and Mary (Griffith) Wagor, who came to Brown county, Kansas, from Iowa in 1874. Bernard Wagor was a soldier in the Union Army during the Civil war, having enlisted in an Iowa regiment. He is now living at the National Soldiers' Home in Leavenworth, Kans. Mrs. Wagor died in September, 1915, at the age of sixty-four years.

Mr. and Mrs. Kirk are members of the Methodist church. Mr. Kirk is a Republican and is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Axtell, Kans. He is one of the well known and progressive farmers of his section of Kansas.

**Lewis L. Kirk**, farmer of Clear Creek township, was born in Hancock county, Illinois, December 5, 1861, and is a son of Lewis A. and Mary A. (Henderson) Kirk, the former a native of West Virginia and the latter a native of Ireland. Lewis A. Kirk removed from his native State to Ohio with his father, Lewis Kirk, in an early day. Lewis, the grandfather of the subject, was a native of Scotland and his wife was born in Pennsylvania. Lewis A., the father of Lewis L., was born in June, 1828, and died in February, 1896, in Jackson county, Kansas, where he had removed in his later days, having first settled in Brown county, Kansas. Mrs. Mary A. (Henderson) Kirk was born in Ireland

in 1831 and left her native isle with her parents when twelve years of age. Her father settled in Ohio, where he died. (See sketch of James E. Kirk.)

The parents of Lewis L. Kirk migrated to Kansas from Hancock county, Illinois, in 1864, and made a settlement in Brown county, where the subject was reared and educated in the district schools. In 1884 he went to Marshall county, Kansas, and rented land for a time and was enabled to buy eighty acres of land, which he sold in 1890. He then came to Nemaha county and bought his present farm of 240 acres in section 32. This farm has twenty acres of natural timber which is an asset in this section of the country.

Mr. Kirk was married in 1883 to Miss Minda Adams and this union has resulted in the birth of the following children: Mrs. Ethel Bowhay, of Axtell, Kans.; Paul, Hugh, John, Olive, Lida and Mary, at home with their parents. The mother of these children was born April 5, 1860, in Nemaha county, and is a daughter of Jesse and Jane (Day) Adams, natives of Indiana and early settlers of Washington township, Nemaha county.

Mr. Kirk is politically allied with the Republican party and is prominent in Masonic circles, being a member of the Axtell lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, in which order he has held offices.

**John W. Law.**—The late John W. Law of Center township was an industrious and upright citizen who bequeathed to his progeny a heritage of honest and honorable dealings which will live long in the memory of those who knew him best. He and Mrs. Law accomplished a great deal during the twenty-eight years of Mr. Law's residence in Nemaha county. He succeeded in accumulating a fine farm which now forms the home for his family, and it is meet that a man's accomplishments while on earth live after him. The Law homestead is a fitting monument to the tireless energy and ambition of this departed citizen.

John W. Law was born on a farm in Washington township, Carroll county, Illinois, May 6, 1860, and was a son of William and Ellen (Gilgoly) Law, natives of Ireland, who immigrated to America and settled on a farm in Carroll county, Illinois, where their son, John W., was reared to young manhood and married. Mr. Law lived in his native State until 1885, and then migrated westward to Kansas in search of a permanent home where lands were cheaper, and opportunities for getting ahead seemed to be better. Mr. and Mrs. Law settled in Center township, Nemaha county, and for the first few years of their residence here, lived on rented land. They carefully saved their earnings, and were enabled to purchase a quarter section of land after renting from Frederick Wagner, Mrs. Law's father. In 1893 they made their first investment in the tract, now known as the Law homestead, located in the southwest quarter of section 31. The farm consists of 320 acres of well improved and very rich land, half of which lies in Marshall county, Kansas. This half section of good land is quite an accumulation for a young couple who began life in Kansas with very few worldly possessions.



JOHN W. LAW.



MRS. JOHN W. LAW.



When Mr. and Mrs. Law left Illinois en route to Kansas, they shipped a team of horses, two milch cows, household goods and farming implements, having a total value of about \$500. This was all they owned in the world excepting \$5 in cash, after paying their railroad fares to Nemaha county! At the time of their purchase of the Law farm, it was improved with but a small three room cottage, and a straw stable. These mediocre buildings have since been supplanted with more pretentious structures. The home has been remodeled into a beautiful, two story, seven room cottage, rebuilt in 1909. The barn was built and painted in 1909, and is a large structure, 40x36 feet in dimensions. John W. Law passed to the realm from which no man returneth, on January 13, 1913. He was a good Christian, having been a member of the Presbyterian church, and was affiliated fraternally with the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

Mr. Law was married October 14, 1884, to Barbara Wagner; and this happy marriage was blessed with eight children as follows: Earl, formerly a clothing merchant at Effingham, Kans.; Ellen, wife of Walter Sunderland, Marshall county, Kansas; Anna, wife of Ellis Polsen, farmer in Center township; Fred, farming in Marshall county; Hyla, studied in Centralia High School, and was formerly a teacher; Walter, at home; two children died in infancy. The mother of the foregoing children was born in Carroll county, Illinois, April 7, 1858, and is a daughter of Frederick and Anna Mary (Brown) Wagner, the former of whom was born in Germany in 1827, immigrated to America when twenty-one years old (1848), and located on a farm near Savannah, Ill. He lived upon his farm for forty-three years and died in 1910. In November, 1884, Mr. Wagner bought a half section of land in Nemaha county and made a settlement thereon. After five years' residence in this county, he was induced to return to the old home in Illinois at the solicitation of two of his daughters who were homesick and wished to return to the old home scenes. Mrs. Mary Brown Wagner, his wife, was born in 1818, and died in 1865. There were seven children in the Wagner family, three of whom accompanied their father to Kansas.

Mrs. Barbara Law, widow of John W. Law, is capably managing the estate left by her husband, and is succeeding in the conduct of the farm. The late Mr. Law was well liked in the community in which he established a home, and his memory will live long in the hearts and minds of those who knew him best. He was a kind husband and a good father to his children, whom he wished to have the advantages of a good education and a comfortable home.

**William H. Van Verth**, successful farmer of Marion township, was born August 3, 1865, in Doddridge county, Virginia, (now West Virginia), a son of Henry and Mary (Barnes) Van Verth, who lived their lives on a farm in Doddridge county. Henry Van Verth, the father of William H., was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1824, and immigrated to America in 1842, first settling in Maryland, where he worked as farm

hand until his removal to Virginia. He became the owner of a fine farm in Doddridge county, and reared a family of nine children. He died in 1915. Henry and Mary Van Verth were the parents of the following children: Lusetta, deceased; George B., a farmer in Marion township; John A., deceased; Mrs. Mary A. Foster, living in Spencer, W. Va.; William H., the subject of this review; Allison E., residing in Edmond, Okla.; Mrs. Ida Brannon, living in West Virginia; Henry L., a merchant of Hiawatha, Kans.; Mrs. Lummie, wife of W. L. Cole, New Milton, W. Va. The mother of the foregoing children was born in Maryland in 1841, and died in West Virginia in 1877.

William H. Van Verth was reared to young manhood on the home farm in West Virginia, and attended the district school with his neighbors, Joseph and Fred Severin, who are also located in Nemaha county, and whose life careers are given at length in this volume. Mr. Van Verth remained in his home State until 1885, and then decided to come West, where opportunities for achieving success were much better than in the East. He first located in Doniphan county, Kansas, and worked as farm hand for five years. He saved his earnings, and was enabled to rent land in Marshall county, Kansas. He cultivated his rented land until 1895, and then bought his present home farm of 163 acres in section 6, Marion township, Nemaha county. He has made many improvements on this farm, and has a nice orchard, which he planted after purchasing the land, and owns 160 acres in section 1, Murray township, Marshall county. Mr. Van Verth keeps good graded live stock on his place, and aims to market his farm production in merchantable beef and pork.

Mr. Van Verth was married, in 1895, to Miss Nellie M. Billingsley, and to this union six children have been born, as follows: Minnie, Ernest N., Grace V., Ralph D. and Hazel M., at home; Lusetta is deceased. The mother of this fine family of children was born in 1877, February 7, in Marshall county, Kansas, a daughter of James and Sarah (Kelsey) Billingsley, natives of Missouri, and early settlers in Marshall county, Kansas.

The Methodist church has the allegiance and support of the members of the Van Verth family. Mr. Van Verth is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights and Ladies of Security, and the Farmers Union. It is to his everlasting credit that he began life without a dollar of his own, and has worked his way upward, unaided, to achieve a position of comfort and moderate wealth, solely by means of hard work and the exercise of good financial judgment and frugality. His thirty years in Kansas have been well and profitably spent in behalf of his family and his home community.

**Benjamin C. Rethmann.**—He whose name heads this review is a son of pioneer settlers of Nemaha county, and is living on the old home place of the Rethmann family where they first settled when they came to this county. The Rethmann farm is one of the best improved places



in the county, and the owner takes a just pride in keeping up the appearance of the place at all times. The farm residence sits well back from the road and is reached by a driveway. Mr. Rethmann does not depend upon the ordinary farming methods for a livelihood, but is a specialist in the breeding of Duroc Jersey hogs and ships the product of his breeding pens to fanciers in all parts of the country. He and his wife are also interested in the raising of the Rose Comb Rhode Island Red poultry, and the family income is considerably enhanced by breeding large numbers of this splendid breed of poultry.

Benjamin C. Rethmann was born December 10, 1886, on the farm which he now owns in Marion township. He is a son of Clements and Agnes (Lutmerding) Rethmann, concerning whom the reader is referred to the sketch of Charles Rethmann which appears in this history. He was reared to young manhood on the farm and attended district school No. 59. When he came to man's estate and began doing things in his own behalf, he became the owner of the homestead farm of 280 acres, located in section 14, Marion township.

Mr. Rethmann was married in 1909 to Miss Elizabeth Haug, who has borne him the following children: Agnes, Mary, Christena and Karl Vincent, at home. Mrs. Rethmann was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, November 5, 1891, and is a daughter of A. B. and Grace (Miller) Haug, natives of Germany. The Haug family left their native land in 1892 and the parents of Mrs. Rethmann are now living at St. Benedict's. Mrs. Rethmann was reared in the village of St. Benedict's., attended the parochial schools of that place and pursued a music course at Mt. St. Scholastica Academy in Atchison, Kans.

Mr. Rethmann is a Democrat who takes an active interest in county affairs and wields a certain amount of influence for good in his community. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association. He and the members of his family are affiliated with the Catholic church. There are no better people to be found than the Rethmanns, and Mr. and Mrs. Rethmann are fair types of the modern, progressive agriculturalists.

**Charles and Sarah S. Guise.**—The late Charles Guise, of Adams township, Nemaha county, Kansas, was born in Hessendarst, Germany, November 27, 1843, and was a direct descendant of the Duke of Guise in Germany. He left Germany with his parents when but a few years of age and worked in the coal mines of Pennsylvania and Ohio for twenty years. He was married in Ohio and came to Nemaha county in 1886, where he and his wife settled on a farm of 160 acres, which was given them by the father of Mrs. Guise. This farm was located in section 1, Adams township, and was poorly improved at the time the Guise family located thereon. Mr. Guise improved and cultivated the land until his demise in 1898.

He was married in Ohio to Sarah S. Gilmore, and nine children were born to this marriage, as follows: Mrs. Stella Pickard, Mobile,

Ala.; Henry, a farmer of Adams township; Theo and William, farmers in Western Kansas, located on 640 acres of land which was given them by their mother in Thomas county; John, postmaster at Brewster, Thomas county, Kansas; Lyman C., a teacher in Leander College, Toledo, Iowa, and formerly a teacher in India; Carl, a teacher at Parkville, Mo.; Edna, the fourth child, deceased; Earl, a stockman in Missouri. Mrs. Sarah S. (Gilmore) Guise was born at Pomeroy, Ohio, May 6, 1846, and is a daughter of Isaac M. and Polly (Stivers) Gilmore. Isaac Gilmore was born in Ohio and came to Kansas in the early pioneer days in 1859. He bought ten quarter sections in Nemaha county, upon which the only improvement was a hewn log cabin built by the homesteader who pre-empted the land. He gave this land to his children.

Mrs. Polly (Stivers) Gilmore was born in New York, February 2, 1821, and was a daughter of Benjamin and Sophronia Stivers, who migrated to Meigs county, Ohio, in 1835. The marriage of Isaac Gilmore and Polly Stivers took place at Pomeroy, Ohio, in 1841. Isaac M. Gilmore died in July, 1864.

Mrs. Guise was reared and educated in her native city of Pomeroy and taught in the district schools of the neighborhood for a few years prior to her marriage. She is the owner of 160 acres of well improved land and formerly owned land in Thomas county, Kansas. She is a member of the Congregational church.

**John Leroy Smothers**, merchant and city official, Oneida, Kans., was born in Georgetown, Colo., December 8, 1875. He is a son of John Wesley and Mary E. (Glaze) Smothers, who were the parents of eight children, as follows: John Leroy, with whom this review is directly concerned; Mrs. Stella Cave, Sabetha, Kans.; Harry, a manufacturer, Kansas City, Mo.; Mrs. Nellie Bechtold, Salina, Kans.; Earl, deceased; Florence, Kansas City, Mo.; Charles, deceased; Genevieve, Kansas City, Mo. John Smothers was born at Cairo, Ill., in 1849, and was a son of John W. Smothers, who was a farmer and a native of Kentucky. John W. Smothers, father of John Leroy, was educated in the Cairo, Ill., schools and graduated from the high school, and taught school until 1873. The following year, 1874, he went West, and located at Georgetown, Colo., where he was placed in charge of the toll gates of a Government owned rock road or turn pike. He was married in Colorado, and three of his children were born at Georgetown. He remained in Colorado until 1882, and then came to Oneida, Kans., where he established a general store with a stock of goods valued at \$1,500. His store was located in an old building, 14x30 feet in size until 1887, when he erected a larger building, and increased his stock of goods. The new building was a frame, 50x100 feet in extent. John W. Smothers was a public spirited citizen, who did a great deal in the way of permanent good for Oneida. He was active in the fight to close the pool halls and saloons, and he was a strong temperance advocate. He took great pride in the appearance and well being of his home town, and assisted in building the

Methodist church, of which he was a member and trustee. He was a liberal donator to all public and religious enterprises, and was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He died February 18, 1900. Mrs. Smothers was born at Iuka, Ill., in 1853, and now makes her home at 4235 Chestnut street, Kansas City, Mo., with two of her children. Mrs. Smothers has a beautiful home in Kansas City, finished in stucco and of eight rooms. The passing of John W. Smothers left a distinct and unfillable void in the civic life of Oneida, and the city was left without its leading and most enterprising citizen of the past decade.

John Leroy Smothers graduated from the Oneida High School and, during the years 1894-1895, attended Baker University at Baldwin, Kans., where he pursued a commercial course. Upon his return to Oneida, he became associated with his father in the mercantile business, and is now a half owner of the business, in partnership with his mother. Mr. Smothers is following in the footsteps of his able parent, and is one of the main hustlers of Oneida. His stock of goods carried at all times in the store will exceed a value of \$12,000 to \$15,000.

Mr. Smothers was married to Miss Vida M. Cave, in March, 1904, and two children were born to this union, namely: Avis, born May 9, 1905, and Hildred, born September 9, 1910. Mrs. Vida (Cave) Smothers was born at Hamilton, Mo., August 17, 1888, and is a daughter of Dr. Samuel C. Cave, who married a Miss Vandivert. Dr. Cave was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil war, and enlisted for service in an Ohio regiment. After the war, he located in Missouri in 1866, where he practiced medicine for many years. He is now retired from active practice, and resides with his children in Sabetha, Kans.

Mr. Smothers is a Republican, and has been a member of the Oneida city council since 1896. He is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and is secretary of the local lodge. He is also affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

**Herbert L. Wait**, publisher of the Centralia "Times," was born October 24, 1873, in Centralia, Kans., and is the son of Enos and Marion (Fuller) Wait, to whom were born these six children: Mrs. Cora Robinson, widow, Centralia; James, dentist, Superior, Neb., graduate of Kansas City Dental School; Mrs. Adaline Mead, deceased; Herbert, subject of this review; Leverne, living with parents; Mrs. Bertha Bateman, Salina, Kansas. The father was born in Ohio, 1842.

Mr. Wait attended grammar school in Centralia and later went to Casper, Wyo., where he worked in a printing office two years. He came back to Centralia and worked in the "Times" printing office until 1900, when, with Arthur P. Jackson, he bought the "Journal" office, the two offices having been consolidated. Later he bought out Jackson's interest and increased the circulation of the paper by two hundred copies. He was married in 1897 to Nettie Hyde, who was born in Hiawatha, August 5, 1878. She is a daughter of James Harvey and Anna (Brokman) Hyde. The father was born in Overland, Ohio, and

the mother in Indiana. He came to Kansas with his parents in 1869. His father, Dr. John Harvey Hyde, was a dentist, and enlisted in Illinois. James Hyde was a printer and is now working with his son-in-law in Centralia. John Hyde worked for John P. Cone in Seneca as a printer. Anna Hyde was born in Indiana in 1858 and is a daughter of William H. and (Miss Roswell) Brokman, natives of Kentucky and Indiana, respectively.

Mr. and Mrs. Wait are members of the Congregational Church. Mr. Wait belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He is an independent Republican. Mr. Wait edits a good newspaper and has a large influence among his readers who support his paper with advertising and subscriptions.

**Lawrence Howard Gaston.**—It has been stated by a competent authority on such matters that there are a number of live stock breeders in Nemaha county who, if they had the recognition to which they are entitled, would take first rank among the breeders of the United States. Nemaha county farms are productive of some of the finest, well bred stock in the country. Among these breeders and one of the best known for the excellence of the products of his stables, is Lawrence Howard Gaston, whose attractive and well improved farm of 240 acres is located in Mitchell township not far from Seneca. Mr. Gaston's Shorthorn cattle have won more than a local reputation.

Lawrence Howard Gaston was born in Stark county, Illinois, May 12, 1857, and is a son of Robert H. and Isabella (Bonar) Gaston, who were the parents of four children, as follows: Mrs. Martha Hervey, deceased; Mrs. Catharine Hogle, deceased; Robert J., living on a farm near Council Grove, Kans.; Lawrence Howard, with whom this review is concerned.

Robert H. Gaston, the father, was born in Belmont county, Ohio, April 1, 1820, and became a farmer in his native State, then removed to Illinois, where he resided until 1884, when he followed his son, Lawrence, to the West, and invested his capital in Nemaha county land and made a home at Seneca until his demise, March 31, 1887. His wife was born in Knox county, Ohio, October 25, 1825, and died March 8, 1894. Both were members of the Congregational church. The parents of Mrs. Gaston were David and Martha (Hervey) Bonar.

Lawrence Howard Gaston was reared to young manhood on his father's farm in Stark county, Illinois, and received a district school education. He remained under the parental roof until his marriage in 1879, and four years later, emigrated from Illinois to Kansas, and purchased a farm of 160 acres in section 18, Mitchell township. The land was unimproved when he bought it, and all of the buildings, trees, fences, shrubbery and attractive, home like appurtenances were placed upon this farm by Mr. Gaston. The first buildings which he erected were a house 20x24 feet in extent, and a plain board stable, which have since been replaced by more commodious structures. He now owns 240

acres of excellent land, which is kept in a high state of cultivation. He is also the owner of city property in Seneca. For several years, Mr. Gaston has devoted his attention to the breeding of high grade Short-horn cattle which have won awards at the county fairs. He maintains a stable of well bred horses, and favors the Poland China breed of swine.

Mr. Gaston was married in 1879 to Isabella S. Johnson, who was born in Stark county, Illinois, January 25, 1861, and is a daughter of Horace and Amelia (Creighton) Johnson, natives of Ohio and Ireland, respectively. Mrs. Gaston was a school teacher, previous to her marriage. Horace Johnson, her father, was born in Ohio in 1826, and became a carpenter; he eventually came to Illinois, where he died in 1866. The mother of Mrs. Gaston was born in June, 1830, and died at Topeka, Kans., in 1908. Eleven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Gaston, as follows: Mrs. Pauline Lytle, living in Home township; Arthur, a farmer in Center township; Gertrude, at home; John, a farmer living near Centralia; Chester, Seneca, Kans.; Karl, a hardware merchant of Centralia, Kans.; Ada, a teacher in the district school near Baileyville, Kans.; Charles, at home; Louis, deceased; Mary, at home with her parents; one child died in infancy.

Mr. Gaston is an independent in politics, and was a candidate for registrar of deeds on the Republican ticket, and also was the party's nominee for the office of county assessor. He has served as a member of the school board, and has always taken a decided and influential interest in township and county affairs. He and Mrs. Gaston are members of the Congregational church, and Mr. Gaston is a trustee and deacon of the Seneca Congregational Church. Since 1884, he has been affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

**Henry Stuke.**—Thirty-three years of diligent application to the duties at hand and hard work combined with good management have witnessed the rise of Henry Stuke, of Mitchell township, Nemaha county, from a poor immigrant lad to become one of the wealthy and substantial land owners of the county. Mr. Stuke is just another German lad who left the land of his nativity to seek fortune in America and found it in Kansas. No thriftier farmers can be found anywhere than in Nemaha county; nearly all of the farmers of German birth are well-to-do and industrious, and Mr. Stuke is no exception to the rule.

Henry Stuke was born in Oldenburg, Germany, October 7, 1861, and is a son of Albert and Mary (Olberding) Stuke, the former of whom was born in Germany in 1820, and died in 1873; the latter having been born in 1827 and died in her native land in 1872. Albert and Mary Stuke were the parents of five children, one of whom is deceased. The subject of this review attended the schools of his native land and when twenty-two years old, decided to make his way to America. He took passage aboard a steamship which required eleven days to make the

trip across the Atlantic to Baltimore. Upon landing, Mr. Stuke came directly to Nemaha county, Kansas, where he obtained employment as farm hand for \$17 per month. He worked at this wage for two years and in 1885 he rented land on his own account in Washington township. He saved his surplus earnings each year and in 1889 he was enabled to buy 160 acres of land in Washington township, part of which was already broken to the plow, which cost him \$25 an acre. He sold this tract in 1900 at a handsome profit and invested the proceeds in 240 acres of good land in section 21, Mitchell township, which formed the nucleus of his present large farm of 460 acres, of which he is now the owner.

Mr. Stuke was married in 1890 to Agnes Ronnebaum, who has borne him the following children: Frank, a farmer in Mitchell township, and father of one child, Walter; Mrs. Agnes Wichman, wife of Benjamin Wichman, and has one child, Cletus; Henry, assisting his father in cultivating the home farm; and Bertha. Mrs. Agnes Stuke was born March 17, 1859, in Germany, and left her native land in 1888, and came alone to America, her parents, Henry and Mary A. (Rolfes) Ronnebaum, dying in their native country.

Mr. Stuke is a Democrat and cast his first vote for President Grover Cleveland in 1884. He and the members of his family are loyal adherents of the Catholic church.

**John Engelken.**—Those who read the life story of John Engelken will read the story of a man who, despite difficulties, has made out of himself a substantial citizen, one who is proud of his Teutonic ancestry, and at the same time loyal to his present country. Though born under another flag, where ideals of government are not the same as ours, he has adapted himself to his environment, and is one of that valuable class of adopted sons who have always been a strong factor in the well being of this country.

Mr. Engelken was born in Hanover, Germany, February 8, 1844. He was the oldest child of Bernard and Mary G. (Kupper) Engelken, who were the parents of these children: John, the subject of our sketch; Ellen, wife of C. Schwarzhoff, deceased; Anna, wife of Henry Huls, whose biography appears elsewhere in this volume; Herman, Nemaha county, Kansas; Mary, wife of Mr. Henzberger, now dead; Margaret, now Mrs. Schulte, of Iowa; Bernard, died at sea as his parents were coming to America.

The father of the subject of this sketch was born in Hanover in 1813. He followed the occupation of flour miller there, but believed he could fare better in America, and, in 1854, left his native land, taking with him his large family. Arriving in America, he came west and located for one year in St. Louis, then settled in Allamakee county, Iowa, where he bought land and settled down to farm it. He followed the occupation of farming until 1882 when, having accumulated what he thought sufficient to provide for him and his family, he moved to Nemaha county, where he



JOHN ENGELKEN.



MRS. JOHN ENGELKEN.





lived in retirement with his son, of whom this biography is to deal at length, and died in 1898. His wife, Mary, was born September 25, 1820, in Hanover, Germany, and died April 4, 1900.

John Engelken was reared on his father's farm. His earliest schooling was in Germany, but after coming to America, he went to the school in Jo Daviess county, Illinois. In 1881, he came to Nemaha county, Kansas, where he bought 162 acres of farming land in Richmond township, section 5. The land was unimproved and required considerable work to put in shape for profitable cultivation. He set to work to build all the necessary buildings himself, although he is not a carpenter by trade. All of his buildings are exceptionally well made, and the fact that he personally constructed them accounts for it. Mr. Engelken is a very industrious man, as one would infer from the foregoing fact, and it is his tireless labors that have made him a successful man. He had always attended to his farm and put his hardest efforts on it, and as a result, he is classed with the prosperous men of the community. Through all his efforts, he has held up a high standard of achievement, and has kept his farm of 240 acres in the best condition. He owns ten acres of timber in Clear Creek township. All of his stock is graded, and he takes special pride in fine animals.

He was married to Mary Schulte on May 28, 1872, and to this union, nine children were born, as follows: Mrs. Mary Rottinghaus, of Nemaha township; Mrs. Maggie Rethmann of Marion township; Mrs. Lena Buessing, living near Axtell; Mrs. Kathrine Wietharn, of Marion township; Benjamin, deceased; Mrs. Lizzie Stitz, of Marshall county, Kansas; Henry, running the old home place, married to Johanna Bergmann in 1911; Nora and Tillie, living at home.

Mrs. Engelken was born October 30, 1855, at Davenport, Iowa. She was a daughter of John B. Schulte, who was a native of Germany. Mrs. Engelken died January 2, 1905.

In political matters, Mr. Engelken is affiliated with the Democratic party, believing that party to have the soundest ideals. He has served on the school board of district No. 74, and was clerk there for a number of years. He is a member of the Catholic church.

Mr. Engelken now owns 252 acres of land which speaks well for his thrift and industry. His is one of the fine records in our citizenry.

**Henry Engelken**, while one of the younger generation of farmers in Nemaha county, is achieving a reputation as a progressive and successful farmer, which ranks as high as that of many older agriculturists in the county. Mr. Engelken has profited by the teaching of his German born father who had an instinctive knowledge of the best methods of tilling the soil, and he has also kept pace with the advancements of the science of agriculture. His crops are among the best in Nemaha county, and this year (1916) witnessed the harvesting of one of the finest wheat crops in Kansas.

Mr. Engelken was born on his father's farm in Richmond township,

October 14, 1891, and is a son of John Engelken, to whose biography the reader is referred. He attended the St. Mary's School in the village of St. Benedict, and has been reared to become a farmer. Since 1902, he has had entire charge of his father's large farm, and has harvested thirty acres of wheat, and has planted 100 acres of corn. Mr. Engelken was married in 1911 at St. Benedict, to Johanna Bergmann, who was born in Marion township, March 7, 1891, and is a daughter of Bernard Bergmann (see biography.) Mr. and Mrs. Engelken are parents of two children, namely: Leona Mary, born January 21, 1916; one child died in infancy.

In addition to his farming operations, Mr. Engelken is operating a threshing outfit in season, and runs a sawmill outfit in winter. He and Mrs. Engelken were reared in the Catholic faith, and are devout members of this denomination.

Mr. Engelken is affiliated with the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association. He is a Democrat in politics, and is serving as a member of the local district school board, district number 74.

**Clarence Curtis Wadleigh**, merchant and banker at Centralia, Kans., was born in Portland, Me., August 2, 1853. His parents were George W. and Abigail (Edgecomb) Wadleigh, to whom were born four children, as follows: Clarence C.; George W., Jr., Portland, Me.; Ernest W. and Frederick, deceased. George W. Wadleigh was born at Parsonfield, Me., December 24, 1820, and became a machinist. He was a son of Elisha and Rebecca (Dearborn) Wadleigh, who were of Scotch-English descent and members of old American families. Elisha Wadleigh was a blacksmith in his native State of Maine. George W. Wadleigh died in 1909. Mrs. Abigail (Edgecomb) Wadleigh was born in Maine in September, 1821, and died in 1889. She was a daughter of Thomas and Abigail (Stone) Edgecomb, natives of Maine.

Clarence Curtis Wadleigh was reared in his native New England village and learned the trade of carpenter in his younger days at Kezar Falls, town of Parsonfield, Me. He worked at his trade from the time he was large enough to handle a hammer and drive a nail and followed his trade in his native State until 1882. He then came west to Centralia, Kans., and assisted in building the school house. His first building contract was the erection of the First National Bank of Centralia, which he erected in 1884. He returned to Maine in 1886 and he and his father opened a large stone quarry, which they operated until 1888. He then went to Boston, and followed his trade of carpenter until 1890. In that year he again came to Centralia, Kans., and took a contract to build the Congregational Church. He erected this building and continued his contract work in Centralia and vicinity until 1900, when he bought a partnership in a hardware store with a Mr. Domer. Nine months later, he became sole owner of the business. Mr. Wadleigh's store was located on the site of the present Haug general store, and his building and contents were burned in 1908. He at once purchased the old Clippinger

place and stocked it up with a complete line of hardware. He conducted his business until 1916, when he sold out and retired from active business pursuits. For the past ten years he has been connected with the Citizens State Bank of Centralia in various capacities and is vice-president of this institution. He is also a stockholder of the Vermillion State Bank, and owns two lots in Topeka, Kans., besides property in Centralia.

Mr. Wadleigh was married in 1884 to Miss Alice T. Smith, who was born at Kennebunk, Me., in 1856, and is a daughter of Ivory Smith, native of Maine. The following children have been born of this marriage, namely: Mrs. Edna A. Gaston, a graduate of the Centralia High School, who resides at Centralia. Her husband is Carl H. Gaston, Mr. Wadleigh's successor in the hardware business.

Mr. Wadleigh is a Democrat, has served as a member of the city council, and is a member of the Centralia school board, which position he has held for the past six years. He is chairman of the board of trustees of the Congregational Church, and is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America.

**Edwin L. Horth**, real estate dealer of Centralia, Kans., was born in New York State, October 21, 1847, and is a son of Reuben and Mary Goldthwait Horth, who were the parents of seven children, four of whom are living. Reuben Horth, his father, was born in Massachusetts, and became a lumberman. He died in 1855, at the age of forty years. Edwin L. Horth's mother was also a native of Massachusetts, born in 1818, and died in 1856. It will thus be seen that Mr. Horth was left an orphan at a very early age, and was reared by relatives who took him with them to Iowa, when he was still a youth. He was a student at Lombard College, Galesburg, Ill., when the Civil war broke out. He returned home and enlisted at Knoxville, Marion county, Iowa, in Company K, Fifteenth regiment, Iowa infantry. He was first enrolled as a drummer boy, but became a soldier in the ranks, and fought with Sherman through the Atlanta campaign. The date of his enlistment as a drummer boy was in December, 1863, and he was honorably discharged in the fall of 1864. When his war service was ended, he went to New York to visit his grandfather and farmed his grandfather's place for five years. In 1869 he came to Centralia, Nemaha county, Kansas, and joined some relatives of the New York colony, who had settled there. This was the time of the great droughts in Kansas and the settlers of this county were in sore need of assistance to keep them alive. Previous to coming to Kansas he solicited aid from the merchants of Fairfield, Iowa, and the same was gratefully accepted by the drought sufferers. When Mr. Horth located in Kansas he raised broom corn and small grains on land owned by his uncle, D. M. Chapin. Three years after coming to Kansas he engaged in the grain and live stock business at Centralia. He erected two elevators, one of which was located at Vermillion, Kans., and was engaged in buying and shipping

grain for over thirty years. He did the largest grain and live stock business in this section of the county for a long period. When he first came to Kansas he acted as land agent for the Missouri Pacific Railway Company and sold railroad lands to settlers for \$6.00 an acre. Some of the land which he originally sold for this price has again passed through his hands greatly increased in value and has brought as high as \$75 and \$80 an acre. Since 1905 Mr. Horth has devoted his time and talents exclusively to the real estate and land business.

He was married in 1867 at Hamlet, Chautauqua county, New York, to Miss Adelia Dye, who was born in New York, in February, 1847, and is a daughter of Captain Dye, who was a drill master in the New York State militia. Five children have been born to this marriage, as follows: Mrs. Tressie Hybskmann, Vermilion, Kans.; Frank, Santa Anna, Cal.; Mrs. Effie Brown, a widow, living at Centralia, Kans.; Lincoln, a traveling playwright; Elmer J., a grocer of Centralia.

Mr. Horth is a Republican who has filled several offices during his long career. He has served as township trustee, mayor of Centralia, and has filled the post of justice of the peace. The only office he is now holding is that of notary public.

**Charles Sumner McNeil.**—Charles Sumner McNeil is one of the most industrious and successful farmers of Home township, and has a well improved farm of 160 acres in section 14. Since purchasing this farm in 1907, Mr. McNeil has built an addition to the residence which stood upon the place, erected a large barn 28x42 feet in dimension, built a granary and silo, and is constantly doing something to enhance the value of his place and make it more attractive and convenient, as an income producer of the first rank.

Mr. McNeil was born in Brown county, Kansas, May 10, 1877, and is a son of George A. and Martha (Honnell) McNeil, who were parents of seven children, four of whom are living. His father was born in Union county, Ohio, March 8, 1844. When the Civil War broke out between the north and south he enlisted in Battery I, First Independent light artillery, of Philadelphia Pa. and saw much active service during the rebellion. His command was engaged in the fighting around Richmond, Virginia, and he was wounded in the back by a shell during the great battle of Gettysburg Pa. He recovered from his wound and received his honorable discharge from the service at the close of the war. He lived in Pennsylvania until his migration to Kansas in 1871. He bought land in Brown county, Kansas, in that day for \$10 per acre and lived in Brown county until the date of his removal to Nemaha county in 1891. He purchased a farm in section 36 of Center township, which he farmed for a time and then retired. Mr. McNeil is now living at Marion, Iowa. The mother of Charles S. McNeil was born in Shelby county, Ohio, in 1843, and departed this life in 1901.

Charles Sumner McNeil was reared on his father's farm and attended school district No. 41 in Mitchell township and also studied

in the high school at Centralia for one term. He learned the carpenter's trade with his father and followed it when a young man for some years, one of which was spent on the Pacific Coast as journeyman carpenter. In 1901 he began renting land on his own account and carefully saved his surplus earnings until he was able to buy his quarter section of land in Home township in 1907. Mc. McNeil keeps good graded stock on his farm and his Plymouth Rock poultry have won prizes at the county fair and poultry exhibits. His farm is what was known as the Dr. Albert J. Best farm, northwest quarter, section 14.

He was married in 1901 to Miss Jennie Lynn, who has borne him children as follows: Paul, Alice, and Grace. Mrs. Jennie McNeil was born on a farm in Mitchell township, September 25, 1877, and is a daughter of William and Margaret (Wrought) Lynn, who came to Nemaha county in 1870, and settled in Mitchell township. Her mother is now living at Independence, Kans. Mrs. McNeil graduated from the common school when fourteen years old and taught school for eight years in the Centralia neighborhood.

Mr. McNeil is a Republican and is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Modern Woodmen of America. He and Mrs. McNeil are members of the Congregational church.

**George W. Huber.**—George W. Huber, retired farmer, Centralia, Kans., was born in Monroe county, Ohio, June 8, 1845, and is a son of Jacob and Barbara (Senetre) Huber. Jacob Huber, his father, was born in Hemmingen, Wurtemberg, Germany, July 10, 1812. He came to America in 1837, and first settled at Wheeling, W. Va., and followed the trade of butcher. Ten years later, in 1847, he removed to Monroe county, Ohio, and engaged in farming. He followed farming at Woodsfield, Ohio, until his death in 1892. His first marriage was with Barbara Senetre, who died in 1863. Four children were born of this marriage as follows: George W., subject of this review; John Huber; and two died young. His second marriage was with Eliza Bott in 1867. Of three children born of this marriage, only one is living, namely: Mrs. Paulina Matilda.

George W. Huber was reared on the Monroe county, Ohio, farm and attended school for three months out of the year, and later the entire term, in his boyhood days. As he grew older he worked in the timber and assisted his father in clearing his land of the heavy growth of timber which covered the farm lands of Ohio in those days. In 1885 he came west with his wife and four children and rented a farm seven miles east of Seneca. One year later he moved to a farm in section 29, Mitchell township, and rented there for three years, after which he bought the place which consisted of 160 acres. A rock house and other improvements stood on the land when he bought it but he set out shade and fruit trees and made other substantial improvements during his tenure of the farm. Mr. Huber tilled his acreage until 1904, and then retired to a home in Centralia.

He was married July 4, 1866, to Miss Elizabeth Emily Smith, born September 14, 1848, in Monroe county, Ohio, and who has borne him four children, as follows: William Ross, a farmer in Center township; Edward Lee, living in Mitchell township; James Henry, deceased; Frank R., a mail carrier out of Centralia. The mother of these children in a daughter of James Ross Smith, who was born in Fayette county, Pa., November 10, 1814. When he was three years old his parents moved to Wheeling, W. Va., where his mother died. Soon afterward his father moved to Maysville, Ky., where he died suddenly, leaving his boy an orphan three years of age. After the death of his parents, James R. Smith lived with an uncle in Jefferson county, Ohio, until he was fourteen years old, when he went to Smithfield, Ohio, and learned the harness maker's trade. He was married in 1839 at Steubenville, Ohio, to Miss Mary Jane Lee, who bore him nine children, six of whom survive him. He came to Seneca in the early days (1880) and engaged in the harness business which he followed until his death in 1906. At the time of his demise he was the oldest living citizen of Seneca. The Smith family, from which Mrs. Huber is descended, is one of the oldest of the American families and her ancestors came to this country in the early days of the settlement of the New England States. Timothy Smith, the great grandfather of James R. Smith, was the founder of the family in America. It is interesting to note that the grandfather of George W. Huber served fourteen years in the Prussian army, and fought at the battle of Waterloo.

Mr. and Mrs. Huber celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, July 4, 1916. Mrs. Huber is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which Mr. and Mrs. Huber are liberal contributors.

**William Winkler.**—William Winkler, the well known and successful breeder and horticulturist of Mitchell township, is a product of the pioneer days of Kansas and was born on a farm in Riley county, February 13, 1867. He is a son of August and Anna (Vogler) Winkler, and was the second of three children born, as follows: Emily, wife of O. Buchheim, Winkler, Kans.; William, the subject of this review; Herman, deceased. August Winkler was born in Saxony, Germany, in 1828, learned the miller's trade in his youth and when eighteen years of age set sail for America in search of fortune. His passage across the Atlantic required ten long weeks in a sailing vessel. He settled in Chicago and was employed on the lake boats entering that city. From Chicago he made his way to Missouri, and engaged in the live stock business, until the territory of Kansas was thrown open for settlement. In 1854 he located in Riley county, Kansas, and bought government land, eventually becoming the owner of several thousand acres of grazing and farming land, on part of which the town of Winkler was laid out and named in his honor. He made his way into Kansas via the ox-team route, at a time when his nearest trading point was Leavenworth, Kans. He first built a log cabin and his

first child was born in this lonely cabin. During his first years on the frontier of civilization times were hard for this sturdy pioneer and many were his vicissitudes and trials. When he made his long trips to Leavenworth for the purpose of stocking up, the streams would often rise and delay his going and coming. He would get very hungry and would frequently shoot birds with which to eke out his meals. Gradually the settlement increased in size and he decided that the time was opportune for building a grist and flour mill. Acting upon this resolve in 1870, in partnership with his brother, Fred, Mr. Winkler purchased the machinery for his mill and hauled his materials from Leavenworth to the millsite, hewed logs for the beams, and built it substantially and strong on the banks of Fancy Creek, near Winkler, Kans. As a natural sequence to this enterprise, the town of Winkler grew up around the Winkler mill. Water power was used and from its inception the project was a success. Later, in 1881, the brothers built a much larger merchant mill at Monterey, Kans., on the Big Blue river, 18 miles north of Manhattan, on line of the Union Pacific Railroad. August Winkler remained in the milling business until his death and lived to realize his dream of fortune and comforts in the new world. His name will be indelibly linked with the early history of Kansas for all time to come and he left an unimpeachable record behind him of which his descendants may well be proud for generations to come. His demise occurred in 1883. His faithful helpmate through his early struggles for a competence, and who shared his later good fortune, Anna (Vogler) Winkler, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, in 1835, and died in 1911. August and Anna Winkler were married in Riley county and made the trip to the minister on horseback. She came across the ocean to America when about twenty-eight years of age.

It is only natural for us to learn that William Winkler learned the miller's trade under his father's tutelage and succeeded to the ownership of the Winkler Blue River mills, at Monterey, Kans., after his father's demise, and operated them until fire destroyed the structure in 1894. He then took his working capital and removed to Nemaha county where he purchased 160 acres of land in Center township. Three years later he sold his farm and bought a hardware store in Seneca, which he operated with considerable success until 1904. He then traded his store for 325 acres of farm lands in sections 23, 25 and 26, in Mitchell township, and has since successfully pursued the avocation of agriculturist and breeder. Mr. Winkler has made a great reputation for himself and his farm in breeding Poland China swine for the trade and has shipped the product of his skill to many discriminating buyers in all parts of the west and middle west. Several times he has exhibited his fine animals at the Nemaha county fairs and has won first prize for a sow and pigs and second for young gilts. He is also a skilled horticulturist and takes pride in the fine apples grown in his orchards, and which have been awarded prizes at the fair. It is such farmers as Mr.



Winkler who are bringing Kansas to the front among the agricultural states of the nation.

Mr. Winkler was married May 15, 1891, to Luella Glunt, at Garrison, Kans. This marriage has been blessed with the following children: Delpha, a teacher in the district schools near Goff, and a graduate of the Seneca High School; Frank, Pauline and William, Jr., at home. The mother of these children was born May 27, 1867, at Davenport, Iowa, and is a daughter of Benjamin Franklin and Lydia (King) Glunt, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Winkler was one of a family of nine children, seven of whom are living. She was educated in the schools of Pottawatomie county, Kansas, whither the family removed from Iowa, and she also studied in the State Agricultural College at Manhattan, Kans., for a year; pursued a classical course at Campbell College, Holton, Kans., for six months and taught school for seven years. She is a very intelligent and capable lady and a wise and kind mother to her children. Mrs. Winkler's parents reside at Garrison, Kans. Her father was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil War, and enlisted for service at Cario, Ill., in the Fourth Illinois infantry, and saw much hard service in the South; fought at Island Number 10, and the fighting around Vicksburg, receiving his discharge at the close of the war. He is affiliated with the Grand Army Post at Topeka, Kans.

Mr. Winkler is allied with the Democratic party and is high in the councils of his party in Nemaha county. When a resident of Seneca, he served as a member of the city council and has filled the post of school clerk in Mitchell township for ten years. He and Mrs. Winkler attend the Methodist church. Mr. Winkler is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Knights of Pythias. He received the appointment of postmaster of Monterey, under Postmaster General John Wanamaker, in 1890, and held this office five years.

**William I. Davis.**—William I. Davis, a leading merchant of Baileyville, Kans., was born September 30, 1871, at New Sharon, Iowa, and is a son of Clarkson and Elizabeth (Whaling) Davis, natives of Indiana and Pennsylvania, respectively. Clarkson Davis was born in Grant county, Indiana, March 5, 1847, and was a son of Mark Davis, a native of South Carolina. He was reared to young manhood in Indiana, and married Elizabeth Whaling, born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, November 16, 1852, and who bore him the following children: William I., with whom this review is directly concerned; Alice, deceased; Mrs. Bertha Feyerabend, of Greenleaf, Kans. Clarkson Davis was a soldier in the Union army, and enlisted in a Wisconsin infantry regiment for service in the Civil war, in behalf of the Union. He migrated to Iowa and settled on a farm where he resided until 1880, and then came west to Washington county, Kansas, where he and Mrs. Davis are living.

William I. Davis was reared on his father's farm and attended the district schools of his neighborhood and the Osceola, Iowa, High School.



After his marriage he rented land in Washington county, Kansas, for a period of seven years and then came to Baileyville, in Nemaha county, and bought a general store, in partnership with H. L. Wilson. This partnership continued until 1905, when he sold out his interest in the firm and later bought an interest in a store as partner with Mr. Benz. In 1907, this partnership was dissolved, and he has since conducted the store on his own account. He carries a complete stock of general merchandise and has an extensive trade among the farmers of the surrounding country side. Besides his business interests, Mr. Davis owns land in Nemaha county and has town property in Baileyville.

His marriage with Miss Minnie I. Wilson occurred December 24, 1893, and this union has been blessed with the following children: Winona, a graduate of the Seneca High School, and a teacher in Nemaha county; Thelma and Morris. Mrs. Davis was born September 29, 1872, on a farm in Washington county, Kansas, and she is a daughter of Barton S. and Celia (Baker) Wilson, who immigrated to Kansas from Illinois and resided at Washington, Kans. Mrs. Wilson died in July, 1915.

Mr. Davis is a Republican in politics and is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a live business man and a good citizen, who is rearing and educating his family to become good and useful citizens and members of society.

**James Franklin Barrett.**—James Franklin Barrett, farmer and live stock breeder, of Center township, was born in Hawkins county, Tenn., October 9, 1872, and is a son of Ezekiel and Rebecca (Church) Barrett, to whom were born six children, four of whom are living. Ezekiel Barrett was born in Hawkins county, Tenn., in 1836, and was of the pure old American stock whose ancestry settled in the Atlantic coast States in the colonial and settlement period of American history. Ezekiel was a farmer in his native state and when the war between the states broke out he enlisted in the Confederate army and served throughout the war. He is now living a retired life on his farm. He is a son of Nelson Barrett, who was one among the early pioneers of Tennessee. The mother of James Franklin Barrett was born in Tennessee, in 1845, and died in 1880. Ezekiel was married the second time to Ellen Merritt, who has borne him three children, and is still living in Tennessee.

James F. Barrett, lived on the parental farm until he was nineteen years of age and then came to Kansas, locating in Nemaha county, where he worked for five years as farm hand at a wage of \$20 per month. He then rented land on his own account and in 1904 he bought his present farm of 80 acres in Section 14, Center township. He is a live stock fancier of note and keeps high grade Durham cattle, well bred Poland China swine and some good draft horses.

Mr. Barrett was married in 1899 to Hulda Weyer, who was born in Nemaha county, March 12, 1872, and is a daughter of Fred and Sophia (Schultz) Weyer, natives of Germany, and early settlers of this county.

Fred Weyer was born in 1833, first settled in Wisconsin, after his emigration from Germany, and came to Nemaha county with his wife in 1860, and settled in Center township. He was accompanied by his two brothers and each of the boys bought government land. Fred Weyer built a log cabin which served as the home of his family until he could build a frame house and break up his land with oxen. Atchison and White Cloud, Kans., were the nearest trading points in those days, and Indians were plentiful in the neighborhood. Mrs. Barrett can remember seeing the Indians in camp on her fathers farm and hearing them beg for food. Mr. Weyer died in 1893, and his wife died in 1913, at the age of seventy-one years. They were members of the German Lutheran Church.

Mr. Barrett is an independent Democrat who votes as his conscience dictates and has never worn the party yoke at election time. He is a reader and thinker who believes in doing right by his fellow men and is consequently well liked and esteemed by all who know him.

**James M. Talkington.**—James M. Talkington, farmer, and one of the first settlers of his neighborhood, in Center township, was born in Morgan county, Illinois, June 2, 1847, and is a son of Alfred and Elizabeth (Campbell) Talkington, who were the parents of ten children, three of whom are living, and of whom James M. was the eighth child born.

Alfred Talkington was born in Kentucky in 1811, and followed agricultural pursuits until his demise in Illinois, in 1861. Elizabeth, his wife, was born in North Carolina, in 1814, and died in 1883. They were God fearing and industrious people of the true pioneer type, and were members of the Baptist church.

James M. Talkington, the subject of this review, was reared on the parental farm in Illinois, and lived in his native state until 1881. He then came to Nemaha county, Kansas, and first bought a farm near the town of Axtell, but sold it two years later and invested the proceeds in an eighty acre tract in section 14, Center township. He has improved this tract until he has made it into an ideal farm home, and is living contentedly and comfortably here with just enough land to keep him busily employed.

Mr. Talkington was married in Missouri to Elizabeth Campbell, born in Buchanan county, Missouri, August 1, 1840, and departed this life in 1910. To this union were born the following children: Warren B., steam fitter at Salem, Ore., who learned his trade at Fargo, N. D.; Dora, at home with her father; Bertha, wife of Charles Kirk, South Dakota; William, auto machinist at Centralia, Kans.; Frank, a farmer of Center township; Mrs. Rosa Shackelford deceased.

When James M. Talkington came to Kansas his worldly possessions wife and three children were loaded in two wagons which served as a means for his transportation from Missouri, whither he had gone from

his old home in Illinois, previous to his migration to Kansas. He is an independent in politics and devotes his entire attention to his farm, and has never sought political preferment of any kind. Mr. Talkington has always enjoyed the best of health and is a great lover of home life and home comforts.

**William W. Schlaegel.**—William W. Schlaegel, farmer and stockman, of Center township, was born October 5, 1866, on a farm near Chester, Ohio, in Meigs county. He is a son of Philip and Kathrine (Priode) Schlaegel, who were the parents of eleven children of whom seven are living. Philip Schlaegel was born near the river Rhine, Germany, January 17, 1840, and immigrated to America with his parents in 1840. He was a son of Peter (born December 4, 1804, died June 7, 1893) and Mary, (born 1809, and died April 18, 1857) Schlaegel, who made a settlement in Meigs county, Ohio, near the town of Chester. Here the parents of William Schlaegel were reared and married. His mother, Kathrine (Priode) Schlaegel, was born aboard ship June 24, 1840, when her parents were crossing the Atlantic, enroute to America, from France. She died September 6, 1912. She was a daughter of Peter Priode, a native of France, who settled in Meigs county, Ohio, and died near Pomeroy, Ohio.

William W. Schlaegel was reared to young manhood in Ohio, and started out to make his own living when eighteen years old. He began as a laborer and section hand on the railroad, worked at this employment for a short time and then became a farm hand. In 1887 he migrated to Kansas, and settled on a farm near Oneida, in Nemaha county, where he worked as farm hand for \$17 per month. Five years later he rented an eighty acres farm in Rock Creek township, which he cultivated until 1894, and then rented land in Marion township, near Baileyville, Kans. He carefully husbanded his resources, saving his money, and in 1900 purchased 160 acres of land in section 17, Center township, upon which he moved in 1908. He keeps good graded stock on his farm and Mrs. Schlaegel specializes in Buff Orpington poultry. Mr. Schlaegel favors the Duroc Jersey breed of hogs.

He was married in 1893 to Olive Thompson, who was born in Rock Creek township, Nemaha county, February 6, 1872. She is a daughter of Abram and Phoebe (Tucker) Thompson, natives of Ohio. Abram Thompson came to Kansas with his parents when a young man and died in Kansas in 1875. The Thompson family have an interesting family tree and genealogy which traces back thru the centuries to royalty in England. The progenitors of the American branch of the family emigrated from England to America in the pre-revolutionary days Phoebe (Tucker) Thompson was born in 1835, and died December 20, 1902. Mr. and Mrs. William W. Schlaegel are the parents of six children, as follows: Merrill, Kyle, Lois, Rachel, Oliver, Francis, all of whom were born in Nemaha county.

Mr. and Mrs. Schlaegel are members of the Presbyterian church,

of which Mr. Schlaegel is a ruling elder, and to which denomination both give their loyal support to the end that a church might be kept going in their vicinity. At the present time the Presbyterian church services are held regularly in the school house in district No. 67. Mr. Schlaegel was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and is a Republican in politics.

**Nels Polson.**—People of many nationalities or ancestry make up the population of Kansas and Nemaha county, and it is no exception to the rule of the average Western community to find a few families of Swedish birth or ancestry in Nemaha county. It is generally found, also, that wherever you find an American farmer of Swedish birth, you find an industrious and progressive family. Our citizens of Swedish birth are among the most progressive and ambitious of any community and the Swedish immigrant quickly assimilates American ways and methods and is very soon rooted to the American soil. The farm of Nels Polson in Center township is an example of what can be accomplished by an industrious son of the Norseland in a few years, with practically no means with which to begin. Mr. Polson has risen within the short space of twenty-three years, since he bought his first farm, to become one of the wealthy land owners of the county, and is one of the representative citizens of Nemaha county who has become a thorough Kansan.

Nels Polson was born in Sweden, March 8, 1863, and is a son of Pöls Nelson and Panala (Nelson) Nelson, who were the parents of seven children, six of whom are living. His father was born near Lahlaln, Sweden, and here reared his family. He was born June 18, 1825, and died March 15, 1902. The mother of Nels Polson was born in 1837, and died in 1914.

In 1888, Nels Polson, with his bride, emigrated from his ancestral home in Sweden enroute to America in search of fortune, and the voyage consumed three weeks before the vessel landed on the American coast. He made his way westward from New York to Vermillion, Kans., and worked as farm hand for \$15 per month for five years. During these years he carefully saved his money, and in 1893, he invested in 160 acres of land in Center township, Nemaha county, Kansas. His land was in section 19 of Center township, and was partly improved, but many substantial improvements have been added to the place by the present owner, who purchased it from Otto Campfield, an early Kansas settler. Mr. Polson has increased his acreage until his holdings now total 325 acres.

Mr. Polson was married in February, 1888, in Sweden, to Matilda Anderson, who has borne him the following children: Mrs. Alma Stalkup, Home township; Alice, wife of J. Law, Center township; Arthur, a public sales auctioneer; Mary, Hulda, Ernest and Edward, at home with their parents. Mrs. Polson was born March 16, 1862, in Sweden, and is a daughter of Andre's and Inger (Pearson) Anderson, the former of

whom was born in 1823, and died in 1877; the latter was born April 1, 1827, and died in Sweden in 1889. They were the parents of four children, of whom a son, Palm Anderson, is living in Oklahoma City.

It might be well to add here the names of the seven children of the Polson family, inclusive, brothers and sisters of Nels Polson, as follows: Peter, Center township; John, Marshall county, Kansas; Nels, subject of this review; August, living near Minneapolis, Minn.; Carl, a farmer living in Montana on a homestead claim near Lambert; Henry, Marshall county, Kansas; one child died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Polson are members of the Swedish Lutheran Church. Mr. Polson is a Republican in politics, but has never sought office nor political preferment. He is essentially a home man, who takes a just pride in his accomplishments since coming to America, and is proud of his fine family of children. He is a self-made man, and his land holdings are practically free from debt, all earned through his own efforts and the assistance of his capable and devoted wife. The Polson farm is one of the best located agricultural plants in Nemaha county, and is within easy access of several markets, the land value of the acreage being in excess of \$75 an acre.

**Alexander Noble.**—Alexander Noble, leading farmer and stockman, Center township, Nemaha county, Kansas, was born in Stephenson county, Illinois, April 21, 1860, and is a son of Thomas and Catharine (Hughes) Noble, to whom were born a family of three sons and four daughters. Thomas Noble was born in Longford county, Ireland, in 1809, and immigrated to America when sixteen years old, first settling in Illinois. He engaged in railroad construction work and later became a farmer. He died February 18, 1898. The mother of Alexander Noble was born in Illinois, February 1, 1837, and died October 20, 1899. She was a daughter of Richard and Jane Hughes, natives of Ireland.

The subject of this review was reared to maturity on the farm of his parents and attended the schools of his native county. When he was twenty-two years of age he rented land on his own account in Stephenson county, Illinois, until 1883, when he removed to Osceola county, Iowa, where he rented land until 1891. In that year he migrated to Nemaha county, Kans., and cultivated rented land until he was enabled to buy an 80 acre tract in Center township, which he improved by setting out trees and erecting a story and a half house 16x26 feet in dimensions and erecting the necessary outbuildings. He sold this farm at a profit and bought his present place of 160 acres in section 20, Center township, and upon which he moved his family in 1914. Mr. Noble is a breeder of Shorthorn cattle and Duroc Jersey hogs and has made a success of his venture into Kansas.

Mr. Noble was married in 1882 to Miss Sarah Gholson, who was born in Stephenson county, Illinois, February 2, 1862, and is a daughter of Francis and Nancy (Allen) Gholson, who were the parents of six children. Francis Gholson, her father, was born in Illinois, and her

mother was born in Tennessee. Both are deceased. Six children have been born of the marriage of Alexander and Sarah Noble, as follows: Alida, deceased; Charles, deceased; Margaret, deceased; William, living in Center township; Forrest and Minnie, at home with their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Noble are members of the Presbyterian church and contribute liberally of their means to the support of this denomination. Mr. Noble is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and is a Democrat. He has served as a member of the school board in district No. 67.

**Patrick Dignan.**—The late Patrick Dignan, of Nemaha county, Kansas, was a pioneer in the true sense of the word, and rose from a poor Irish immigrant boy to become one of the successful farmers of Nemaha county. Patrick Dignan was born in County Armagh, Ireland, January 16, 1844. When a boy he dreamed of the great country across the wide ocean and made up his mind to one day sail away from his native isle and seek his fortune in America. An uncle, Thomas Morgan, had immigrated to this country some years before and had established a home in Nemaha county, Kansas. When Patrick was enabled to make the ocean voyage he made his way across the continent and joined his uncle, receiving a warm welcome in the new land. This was in the early days of the settlement of Nemaha county and Thomas Morgan was among the first pioneers in this county. Consequently, Patrick Dignan knew the prairies in their wild, uncultivated state and learned to rough it with members of his uncle's family. He soon learned to do a man's work and was self-reliant at all times. He lived at his uncle's home until the great gold rush of the early sixties, when, the gold fever assailing him, he made the long trip to the gold fields in search of the precious metal. He remained in the gold mining region of Colorado for some time, and his trip was profitable to him not only from the standpoint of material gain but because of the experience and the broad outlook upon life, which, mingling with all classes of men, gave him on the frontier of civilization. He returned to Kansas in due time and began farming, while still making his home with Mr. Morgan. Shortly before his marriage he purchased a farm in Nemaha township, which he farmed and also taught school for a period of seven years near St. Benedict's. He cultivated his farm land in Nemaha township for twenty-eight years and then bought a tract of land in Mitchell township upon which he settled with his family and cultivated until his demise in 1906. Mr. Dignan was a successful farmer and was an extensive live stock man.

The married life of Patrick Dignan was a happy one, and he chose for his life companion, Miss Catharine Laughlin, whom he married July 6, 1874. This union was blessed with a fine family of children, as follows: Edward, a farmer living near Axtell, Kans.; Mrs. Mary Haug, residing on the home place of the Dignans; Alice, Sister Senorina, member of the Order of St. Benedict, at Mt. St. Scholastica's Academy, Atchison, Kans.; James, a farmer living at Kelly, Kans.; Helen,

also a sister, Marcella, Order of St. Benedict, deceased, 1908; Anna, deceased; Frank, Chicago, Ill.; Ethel, and Emmet, at home with their mother; Catharine, died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Dignan gave all of their offspring the advantages of a good education. The mother of these children was born at Bangor, Me., April 23, 1855, and is a daughter of Luke and Mary (McTigue) Laughlin, both of whom were natives of Ireland. Luke Laughlin, her father, was born in June, 1814, and immigrated to America in 1850. He learned the trade of stone mason when a youth, and he came as far west as Atchison, Kans., and worked at his trade until 1877. In that year, he decided to take up farming, and accordingly, came to Nemaha county, and purchased a farm, which he cultivated until his retirement to Seneca, where he died in 1908. Mary Laughlin, mother of Mrs. Dignan, was born in Ireland in 1826, and died in 1906. Mrs. Dignan received a good common school education, and remained at home with her parents until her marriage with Mr. Dignan. She and her husband fought the good fight together against drought, and overcame the vagaries of nature in its relation to the Kansas climate, and accumulated a competence. The first year of the wedded life of Patrick and Catharine Dignan was the first of the "grasshopper" years when the vast clouds of insects came down upon the smiling fields of the pioneers, and ate the growing crops, leaving devastation and woe in their path as they disappeared by the east and north. This was not encouraging to the young couple, but with true pioneer fortitude and bravery, they set themselves to repair the damage done and succeeded.

Patrick and Catharine Dignan were reared in the Catholic faith, and have always been supporters of Catholic institutions. Patrick Dignan was a man well respected and highly esteemed by all who knew him; his integrity was beyond reproach; his honesty was proverbial; his industry was the wonder of his neighbors and friends; his financial ability was of a high order; and he left behind him when he passed to the Great Beyond from whence no man returneth, a reputation as a citizen, husband and father, such as is deserved only by good and true men.

**Edgar E. Holston**, lumber merchant, Goff, Kans., was born in Leavenworth county, December 4, 1872, a son of John T. and Mary E. (Manuels) Holston, (born in 1844), who were the parents of four children, as follows: Mrs. Nora Friend, Lawrence, Kans.; Edgar E., with whom this biography is directly concerned; Mrs. Nellie Walter, Kingman, Kans.; William, Vermillion, Kans. John T. Holston, father of the foregoing children, was born in Edgar county, Illinois, January 19, 1840, was there reared to young manhood, and came to Kansas in an early day. He first settled at Wathena, Doniphan county, where he was married, and cultivated a farm. From Doniphan county he removed to Leavenworth county, and from there, moved to Soldier, Kans., where he was engaged in general merchandising. In August, 1911, he located at Vermillion, and is conducting a general store at that place.



Edgar E. Holston was reared at Soldier, Kans., and received his primary education in the schools of that city. After completing the course in the public schools, he attended Quincy College at Quincy, Ill., and completed a business course in 1891. His first position was as assistant cashier of the Citizens State Bank at Soldier, a place which he filled satisfactorily until he resigned in 1894, and located at Blaine, Kans., and purchased a partnership interest in a lumber yard with his brother-in-law, C. E. Friend. He sold out his interest in the Blaine lumber yards in 1898, and invested his capital in a small lumber concern at Goff. The business has been built up under his excellent management until the yards now cover a half block space, and the lumber, building material, and builders' supplies carried in stock will exceed a value of \$10,000, and run as high as \$15,000 in the building season.

Mr. Holston was married, in 1898, to Miss Gertrude Smith, born at Ames, Iowa, September 9, 1871. Mr. Holston is a staunch worker in the ranks of the Republican party, and filled the office of mayor of his home city in 1906. He is now serving as a member of the city council, and is one of the active workers in behalf of a better town and modern conveniences for the city. Mr. Holston is always found in the forefront of those who advocate things and innovations for the betterment of civic conditions as a whole, and has a keen and earnest desire to build up his home city. He is a member and trustee of the Methodist Episcopal church, and is fraternally affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Modern Woodmen of America.

**Iris J. Kinyon**, mayor and druggist, Bern, Kans., was born December 16, 1886, on a farm near Britt, Iowa. He is a son of George M. and Lillie (Brazelton) Kinyon, who were the parents of five children, of whom Iris J. is the eldest. George M. Kinyon was born in Iowa, October 4, 1865, and was a son of Benjamin Kinyon. He became a druggist and located at Wilson, Kans., in 1886. Mr. Kinyon took a great pride in his business, and had what was considered to be the finest equipped and most imposing drug store between Kansas City and Denver at that time. He conducted his drug business at Wilson for three years, and after a residence in Severance, he finally located in Bern in 1892. He placed in operation the first drug store ever established in Bern and conducted it until his demise in February, 1904. During 1901 and 1902, Mr. Kinyon served as postmaster of Bern. He was affiliated fraternally with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Mrs. Lillie Kinyon, mother of Iris J., was born near Hopkinton, Iowa, October 12, 1867, and is residing in Bern at the present time. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Iris J. Kinyon entered the Kansas State University at Lawrence, Kans., after attending the public schools at Bern, and there pursued a course in pharmacy. He passed the State board examination at Wichita, Kans., February 25, 1905, and returned to his home town in March of the





J. W. GILLASPIE



MRS. J. W. GILLASPIE.



IRIS J. KINYON,  
Mayor of Bern, Kansas.



CHARLEY BEYREIS.



same year. Shortly afterward, he went to Madison, Kans., and was employed in a drug store for some time. January 23, 1906, he bought out his father's old store, then owned by E. B. Moore, and has built up the business to a fine stage. His stock of goods carried in the store will exceed a value of \$7,500, and is tastefully arranged and displayed to the best advantage. Mr. Kinyon has erected a beautiful bungalow in Bern at cost of \$3,500. His store building is a substantial one in size, 40x60 feet.

Mr. Kinyon was married, in 1908, to Manie Handley, born March 16, 1888, near Millerstown, Ky. Two children have blessed this marriage, namely: Lyla Jean, born June 25, 1912, and died June 25, 1912; Carolie, born April 30, 1916.

Besides his drug business, Mr. Kinyon is engaged in manufacturing a line of stock remedies. This venture was begun October 1, 1915, in partnership with William Kinsey, and the firm is placing a line of stock remedies on the market under the name of the "K & K" Manufacturing Company. Mr. Kinyon is allied with the Republican party, and was elected to the office of mayor of Bern in April of 1915. During his term of office, he has made several worthy improvements in the city, and is making a creditable record as a public spirited official. He is affiliated with, and holds office in, the Knights of Pythias, and the Modern Woodmen of America.

**Charley Beyreis.**—"Charley," as all of his many friends know him, is one of the prominent and successful farmers and stockmen of Nemaha township, Nemaha county, Kansas. Mr. Beyreis was born January 7, 1880, on the farm where he now lives. He is a son of Andrew and Anna (Hansz) Beyreis, to whom were born twelve children, ten of whom are still living. Andrew Beyreis was born in Saxony, Germany, January 16, 1835, and left there when a young man to come to America. In 1872, he settled in Nemaha township, and bought 160 acres in section 11. This was prairie land when he took it, but by hard work, he converted it into tillable condition and built a house and stables on the place. He remained on this land, making improvements constantly, until his death, May 29, 1915. At one time during his life, he had owned 400 acres of land which made him a farmer of high rank. The mother of Charley Beyreis was born August, 1842, in Alsace-Lorraine, that buffer province on the German frontier which has been tossed back and forth by French and German armies. She left her native land with her mother, and they settled in Illinois upon their arrival in America. Mrs. Beyreis died in 1895.

Charley Beyreis was reared on his father's farm in Nemaha county, Kansas. He spent his boyhood as all other boys on Kansas farms spend their earlier years, including several months' attendance at the school in district No. 8. Mr. Beyreis has always lived on the farm, on which his father originally settled. He owns 420 acres of land in Nemaha and Grey counties, which are farmed jointly by Charley and his brother, Henry. Henry also owns 160 acres of land in Finney county, and a half interest

in 200 acres in Nemaha county, Kansas. Neither of the brothers is married. Charley is a Republican voter, and is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge No. 19, Seneca, Kans.

Both Charley Beyreis and his brother are well liked among their friends, and are considered very successful farmers. They have attained success wholly by their own hard work and careful management, and are among the most valuable members of their community.

**John W. Gillaspie.**—Forty-four years of John W. Gillaspie's life have been spent within the borders of Nemaha county, Kansas, and he can rightly be considered as one of the pioneers of Kansas. During this period, he has witnessed many changes for the better, and has seen the country grow more populous, and the farmers of his section of the State of Kansas grow more prosperous each year. Mr. Gillaspie was born in Monroe county, Iowa, May 18, 1852, and is a son of Benjamin N. and Elizabeth (Newman) Gillaspie. Benjamin N. Gillaspie was born in Fountain county, Indiana, in 1824, and was a son of Andrew Gillaspie, a native of Ohio and son of Scotch parents, and who married a Miss Nichols, also of Scotch parentage. Benjamin N. Gillaspie was an early settler in Fountain county, Indiana, and was one of the earliest pioneers in Monroe county, Iowa, where he owned a farm. In his boyhood days, Benjamin N. Gillaspie learned the blacksmith trade and plied his trade until his enlistment in the Union army at Centerville, Iowa, in 1862. He was a member of Company I, Thirty-sixth Iowa infantry. He received his discharge after his term of enlistment expired, and continued to ply his trade, and farmed until his removal to Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1872. He settled on a homestead south of Centralia, Kans., and made many improvements on the place. His first house was a very small one, and in keeping with his limited means. It is recalled that he broke up the land on his farm with the aid of a two year old colt and mare for lack of a better team. In his later days, the pioneering fever again obsessed him, and he took a trip to the far west in company with his son, William, for the purpose of homesteading a Government claim. Death claimed him while absent on this expedition in 1881. Elizabeth Newman Gillaspie, wife of Benjamin N. Gillaspie, was born in Fountain county, Indiana, in December, 1824, a daughter of Nathaniel Newman, of German and Scotch descent and who married a Miss Campbell. She died in 1891.

John W. Gillaspie was reared on his father's farm in Iowa and Kansas, and received a district school education. When he attained his majority, he married and rented land from his father-in-law, J. W. Dennis, who deeded him a farm of seventy-five acres in 1874. This tract was unbroken prairie land with no improvements of any kind. Mr. Gillaspie first built a small house, and in later years as he became able, he erected a large eleven room house with other out-buildings of a substantial nature. Mr. Gillaspie is a fancier of well bred live stock, and takes a pride in his fine driving horses. His farm now embraces 120 acres of well tilled land, besides which, he is a shareholder in the Farmers Union Elevator Company of Seneca, Kans.

Mr. Gillaspie was married in 1873 to Amanda Dennis, who has borne him the following children: Walter, living in Morris county, Kansas; Ola, wife of W. O. Neiberger, Morris county, Kansas; Wesley, deceased; Roy, a farmer in Nemaha county; Raymond, died in infancy; Mrs. Maud E. Neiberger, of Jackson county, Kansas. Mrs. Amanda Gillaspie was born August 21, 1854, in McLean county, Illinois, a daughter of Joseph W. and Mary Ann (Young) Dennis, who were among the earliest of the Nemaha county pioneers. Concerning this noted couple, the "Courier-Democrat," in its issue of November 13, 1913, has the following to say in part, upon the demise of Mr. Dennis: "'Uncle Joe' Dennis, one of the oldest pioneers in this section of Kansas, died at his home a half mile south of Seneca, Monday night. Death came after a short illness, due to the infirmities of old age. As the news of his death passed along the street and throughout the community next day, universal sadness was



MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH DENNIS.

felt, and many were the kind words uttered to the memory of this sturdy pioneer. The familiar figure of Mr. Dennis on the streets of Seneca was an ever welcome one. His cheery word and unassuming manner made him the friend of all. To such men as this do we owe the privileges we now enjoy. More than half a century ago (1856), Mr. Dennis and wife, with others of their kind, came to this then trackless wilderness, and carved out the great commonwealth of Kansas.

"Joseph W. Dennis was born in Henry county, Kentucky, April 9, 1825, and at the time of his death on November 11, 1913, was well up in his eighty-eighth year. From Kentucky, Mr. Dennis moved to DeWitt county, Illinois, where, in 1847, he married Mary A. Young, of Adair

county, Kentucky. In 1856, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis, together with his father, Batson Dennis, and four brothers, came to Nemaha county, Kansas. Upon his arrival, Mr. Dennis entered the quarter section of land, which, throughout the fifty-six years and over that he has been a citizen of the county, has ever been 'home.' He later added to his holdings, and at one time, owned 1,200 acres in this county. Mr. Dennis and wife shared their full quota of the hardships of the early pioneer. The log cabin of the early day was their home the first few years, and eventually gave way to a more modern dwelling as time progressed. Each decade in passing, marked a wonderful change in Nemaha county, and at the time of his death, Mr. Dennis lived in one of the nice farm homes of the community.

"The father and brothers of J. W. Dennis died years ago. On the eighth day of July, 1908, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis, surrounded by their children and grandchildren, celebrated the passing of the sixtieth milestone of their wedded life in their own quiet manner."

On the eighteenth day of April, 1909, the faithful wife of this grand old pioneer passed away. Mrs. Mary Ann (Young) Dennis was born in Adair county, Kentucky, in 1826. Early in life, she removed with her parents and family to DeWitt county, Illinois, where she met and married Joseph W. Dennis, July 8, 1847. Ten children were born to this noted couple, of whom three survive the parents, namely: Campbell W. Dennis; Philip Dennis, and Mrs. Amanda Gillaspie. Four children died in infancy, and three others, Mrs. Howard Chilson, Mrs. Sarah Luckey, and Mrs. Mary Highsmith, passed away leaving families. Mr. and Mrs. Dennis were faithful members of the Baptist church. Amanda, wife of John W. Gillaspie, owns part of the land upon which her father settled, when he came to Kansas.

Mr. Gillaspie is allied with the Democratic party, but has never sought political preferment. He and his wife take an active interest in social affairs and have many warm and steadfast friends in the community. The members of the Gillaspie family are proud of the fact that the parents on both sides were among the pioneers of the State. They are members of the Universalist church, and Mr. Gillaspie is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

**Ray T. Ingalls**, editor and proprietor of the Goff "Advance," Goff, Kans., is a son of Franklin T. Ingalls, who was born near Naperville, Ill., September 29, 1848, and was the youngest son of Henry and Lois Ingalls. He resided at Naperville until he attained the age of eighteen years, and received his education in the district schools and the Naperville, Ill., Academy. In 1866, he went to Wisconsin, and worked in the lumber camps for two years. He then located in Will county, Illinois, and practiced veterinary surgery, and farmed for several years. He was married at Connersville, Ind., December 3, 1876, to Amanda George, who was born on a farm near Dayton, Ohio., February 25, 1851, and was a daughter of John Wesley and Nancy George, who

moved to Connersville, Ind., in 1855. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Ingalls moved to a farm near Joliet, Ill., and later located at New Lenox, Ill., where Mr. Ingalls conducted a meat market. They again returned to the farm near Joliet and, in 1885, came to Kansas, and settled on a farm southeast of Centralia, in Nemaha county. One year later, they removed to Seneca, and are now residents of that city. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Ingalls are as follows:

Mabel, the eldest child, was born in Illinois on October 9, 1877, and was married to Will J. Foreman on December 23, 1896. At the time of this marriage, Mr. Foreman was a brakeman on the Kansas City Northwestern railroad with his headquarters and home in Kansas City, Kans. He later gave up railroad work, and moved to a farm near Dewey, Okla.

Olive, the second child, was born in Illinois, November 19, 1879, and took up newspaper work after graduation from the Seneca High School. She spent her apprenticeship as a compositor on the staff of the Seneca "Rural Kansan," and was later employed in the office of the "Courier-Democrat," and also filled the post of social reporter on the Seneca "Tribune," and worked for these newspapers for several years. She was married at St. Joseph, Mo., on January 1, 1916, to Frank I. Reed, of Grand Island, Neb. Mr. Reed is engaged in the garage business at Grand Island, Neb.

Park, the third member of the family, was born in Illinois, August 27, 1881, and was educated in the Seneca public schools. He was married, in 1908, to Miss Lulu Morris of Iliawatha. He lives in Seneca and, for the past fifteen years, has been a piano salesman.

Irvin, fourth born, was born in Illinois, December 19, 1883, was educated in the Seneca schools, and makes his home with his parents in Seneca.

Fannie, fifth child, was born near Centralia, Kans., September 3, 1885, was educated in the Seneca schools, and taught school in Nemaha county for a number of years. She was married, in 1908, to L. Harold Bump, son of Mrs. L. A. Bump of Kelly, Kans. Mr. Bump is employed as United States mail clerk on the run between Cheyenne, Wyo., and Pocatello, Idaho, a position which he has held for the past eight years. Mr. and Mrs. Bump make their home at Cheyenne.

Alice, seventh member of the family, was born in Seneca, July 20, 1889, and attended the Seneca schools. She followed the trade of milliner and saleslady in Kansas City for a number of years. She was married in 1913 to Fred H. Burke, a Kansas City druggist.

Mary Esther, eighth child, was born in Seneca, January 31, 1892, and attended the Seneca schools, after which she was employed as compositor in the office of the "Courier-Democrat" and the Goff "Advance" prior to her death, April 9, 1915.

Ray T. Ingalls was born at Seneca, Kans., October 19, 1887, and began his newspaper career in 1902 by becoming an apprentice in the

office of the "Courier-Democrat" at Seneca, Kans., where he remained for ten years at different periods as a printer. He served as foreman for the Westmoreland "Recorder" for three years, and then returned to Seneca as machine operator for the "Courier-Democrat." May 1, 1913, he purchased the Goff "Advance." During the three years in which he has had charge of this newspaper he has built up the circulation of the sheet from 200 subscribers to a strong list of more than 750, and has enlarged the paper from a sheet with two pages of home print to a well edited and neatly printed paper of four pages, well patronized with local advertising.

He was married to Iva F. Mosier, November 1, 1908. Three children have been born to this marriage, namely: Dorothy, Helen and Kathryn. Mrs. Ingalls was born at Westmoreland, Kans., October 29, 1889, and is a daughter of Solomon and Amanda (Graft) Mosier, natives of Indiana and Ohio respectively. Solomon Mosier was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil war and served for one year in an Indiana regiment under General Miles and later filled the post of General Miles' orderly in the regular army for over six years. Mr. and Mrs. Mosier are living at Redondo Beach, Cal.

Mr. Ingalls is a Democrat, politically, and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is fraternally allied with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

**Frank D. Steele**, farmer and stockman of Harrison township, was born in Wisconsin, January 16, 1860, a son of George and Eliza (Perry) Steele, who were the parents of ten children, four of whom are living. George Steele, the father, was born in Quebec, Canada, in 1822, and when he became of age, removed to New York State, where he married and then immigrated to Wisconsin. After he farmed in Wisconsin for few years, he removed to Bradford, Iowa, and rented land near that city until 1866, when he came to Seneca, Kans. Coming here in May, 1866, he worked as a laborer for two years, and then preempted eighty acres of land in Adams township. The first home erected by George Steele on his preemption was a "hole in the ground," and the walls of which were built of sod cut from the prairie, with a thatch roof. He farmed this tract for eight years, and then traded his homestead for a team of horses, harness and a wagon. During the remainder of his life, he rented land in Nemaha county, eventually dying on a farm in Harrison township in 1893. Mrs. Eliza (Perry) Steele was born in New York State in 1839, and died in 1911.

Frank D. Steele was reared to young manhood in Nemaha county. Although he was but six years of age when the family came to Kansas, he remembers the early days of the settlement of Nemaha county, and has never forgotten the privations which fell to his lot and the members of his father's family in the struggle to attain a livelihood, and make a home in the new country. It is a far cry from the first home



which he knew in Harrison township to his comfortable farm residence. The "hole in the ground" or sodhouse in which he spent many of his boyhood days has long since passed out of existence.

Mr. Steele was enabled to make his first investment in farm land in 1880, and purchased eighty acres in section 28, of Harrison township. This farm is the nucleus around which his large holdings of 480 acres have accumulated, and the home place is well improved, with a comfortable farm dwelling and a large barn 40x50 feet in extent. Mr. Steele is an extensive feeder of cattle, and specializes in high grade Durham cattle, Duroc Jersey swine and draft and Percheron horses. He believes in high grade stock on his place, and prefers to market the products of his large farm on the hoof at all times.

Mr. Steele was married, in 1884, to Miss Laura B. Rucker, who was born near Streator, Ill., February 10, 1865. To this union have been born the following children: Mrs. Pearl Jones, living in Reilly township; Arlie, a farmer on section 33, Harrison township; Frank D., Jr., farming in Harrison township.

Mr. Steele is a Republican in his political affiliations and is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights and Ladies of Security. He is essentially one of the industrious and self made men of Nemaha county, who has worked his way upward to his present comfortable position by dint of industry and good management.

**Frank J. Watkins**, real estate dealer, Goff, Kans., is a native born Kansan who was born on a pioneer farm in Harrison township, Nemaha county, August 13, 1871. He is a son of Holden J. and Mary R. (Hall) Watkins, to whom were born seven children, six of whom are living.

Holden J. Watkins was born in Michigan, July 20, 1848, reared in his native State, and migrated to Brown county, Kansas, in 1870. He drove from Michigan to Kansas and after stopping a while in Brown county, he came directly to Harrison township, Nemaha county, and traded his team and wagon for eighty acres of land in section 10, Harrison township. He lived on his farm until 1889, and then located in Goff, where he operated a livery barn and dealt in live stock for several years, eventually removing to Cherryville, Kans., where he invested his working capital in an ice and cold storage business. He lived in Cherryville until his demise, February 14, 1909. His widow makes her home at Cherryville.

Frank J. Watkins attended the Goff schools, and was employed in the Goff State Bank from 1891 to 1894 as bookkeeper. He served as stationery engineer of the William McKibbin Elevator Company until 1896. Following this occupation, he became associated with Kirschbaum & Sons Produce Company, and was also engaged in the retail meat business in his home city. In 1903, he established his real estate business, and has become an extensive dealer in farm lands, besides being owner of a considerable acreage of farm land on his own account.

Mr. Watkins was married, in 1893, to Mary Gettle, who was born

September 10, 1872, in Pennsylvania, a daughter of William and Mary (Armstrong) Gettle, natives of the Keystone State who were early settlers of Adams township, Nemaha county. They settled on a farm in that township, and lived in Nemaha county until both died. Four children have been born to Frank J. and Mary Watkins, as follows: Hazel, graduate of the Goff High School, and now a trained nurse in Kansas City, Mo.; Fred, Lloyd and Janice, at home with their parents.

Mr. Watkins is allied with the Republican party, and has filled the office of township trustee for two terms. For the past fourteen years, he has been a member of the school board, and has served as a member of the town council. He is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America, and is recognized as one of the real live wires of Goff, who takes an active and influential part in all undertakings, which have for their object the boosting of his home city and county.

**David Campbell.—Mrs. Della M. Campbell.**—The late David Campbell, of Harrison township, was born in New Castle, Lawrence county, Pennsylvania, August 23, 1876, and came to Kansas with his parents when he was two years old. He was a son of John and Lorinda (Kennedy) Campbell, natives of Pennsylvania, who immigrated to Kansas in 1874, and settled on a farm in Jackson county. John Campbell was born in 1849, and died March 16, 1908. His widow resides at Palo, Kans. David Campbell was reared in Kansas on his father's farm, and became a drayman and farmer at Goff. He owned eighty acres of land in Harrison township, which made a good living for himself and family through his industry and natural intelligence combined with good management and the assistance of a faithful wife. David Campbell died January 3, 1915, sincerely mourned by the members of his family and a host of friends and acquaintances. He was affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Modern Brotherhood.

David Campbell was married December 12, 1898, to Miss Della Sourk, and four children were born of this marriage, three of whom are deceased: Verna, born, September 24, 1901, is a graduate of the Goff public schools, and a high school student. Mrs. Della (Mitchell) Campbell was born on a farm in Harrison township, October 6, 1881, and is a daughter of William and Amanda (Mitchell) Sourk, whose biographies are given at length in this volume of historical annals of Nemaha county. Mrs. Campbell lived on her father's farm until her marriage with Mr. Campbell, after which Mr. and Mrs. Campbell removed to Goff.

When Mr. Campbell died, his widow traded their eighty acre farm for a large, modern residence in Goff, consisting of ten rooms, and adapted for a boarding and rooming house, known as the "Campbell House." Mrs. Campbell promptly saw her opportunity and, for some time, has been conducting a popular boarding house, which is well patronized, and is noted for its excellent accommodations and good meals.

served to the patrons. Besides this real estate, she has an interest in the Sourk estate which is considerable. She and her daughter are both members of the Christian church, and Mrs. Campbell is a liberal contributor to this denomination.

**Clayton K. Simon**, postmaster at Goff, Kans., was born in Seneca, March 20, 1887, and is a son of Lorraine N. and Jennie M. (Ford) Simon, whose biographies are to be found elsewhere in this volume.

Mr. Simon received his education in the district schools of Nemaha county, and the high schools of Seneca and Corning. He also pursued a business course at the Central Business College of Kansas City, Mo., and studied at Baker University, Baldwin, Kans. After completing his course in Central Business College, he taught for three months in this college, and at the age of eighteen years, he became bookkeeper for the National Bank of Commerce, of Kansas City, and also the National Biscuit Company of Kansas City, Mo. During 1912 and 1913, he studied at Baker University, and then became associated with his father, Lorraine N. Simon, in the hardware business at Goff, Kans. In 1914, he went to Coffey county, Kansas, and engaged in farming for a time. In March of 1915, he was appointed postmaster of Goff, and is filling this position to the satisfaction of the patrons of the office.

Mr. Simon was married in 1914 to Miss Agnes E. Hanley, born September, 1890, at Goff, Kans., and a daughter of John E. Hanley, a blacksmith at Goff. Mr. Simon is a Democrat politically, and is a member fraternally of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

**Louis S. Slocum**, editor and jeweler, Corning, Kans., was born at Jackson, Mich., September 18, 1874, and is a son of Willis and Alice M. (Fuller) Slocum, to whom five children were born. Willis Slocum, his father, was born October 5, 1843, in Connecticut, town of East Haddam. He enlisted in Captain Corwin's Independent Battery of New York volunteers, and fought at the Battle of Gettysburg, during which engagement he was badly wounded by a shell. His command faced Gen. Pickett's famous charges four times during this great battle, which marked the turning point against the Confederacy during the Civil war. At the time of his honorable discharge, he was first sergeant of his company. He was a member of the Corning Grand Army post, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and the Knights and Ladies of Security. He removed to Beloit, Kans., from Iowa, in 1877, and engaged in the mercantile business for some years, after which he engaged in farming near Centralia, Kans., in 1881. He came to Corning, Kans., in 1885, and conducted a mercantile business here until 1910, when he retired. He died June 10, 1912, at the age of sixty-nine years. Mr. Slocum was married to Alice M. Fuller in 1872. Mrs. Slocum was born at Collinville, Conn., February 11, 1854, and is now making her home at St. Joseph, Mo.

Louis S. Slocum was educated in the Corning schools and graduated from the high school. He then studied in the Wichita Business

College, and also pursued a course with the Sprang Correspondence School. At the age of twenty-one years, he began teaching school at the Rose Hill district school in Reilly township, and also taught for one year in Corning, teaching, in all, for three years. In 1896, he bought a half interest in the Corning "Gazette" with Frank Minter. The paper had a subscription list of 300, which has been increased to over 600 subscribers at the present writing. In 1899, Mr. Slocum purchased his partner's interest, and has since operated the newspaper on his own account. In the meantime, Mr. Slocum studied in the jewelry and watch making schools of Kansas City, Mo., and became proficient at the jeweler's trade. He established a jewelry establishment in Corning in 1906, and conducted it successfully until his store was destroyed by fire in February, 1916, entailing a loss of \$1,400. Mr. Slocum is a shareholder of the Farmers State Bank, and is a hustling and enterprising citizen.

He has been twice married. His first marriage took place, in 1899, with Lela E. Casey, a daughter of Peter T. Casey. She died in December, 1909. His second marriage took place September 25, 1912, with Elsie E. Baldwin. Two children have been born of this marriage, namely: John, and Morris. John was born July 11, 1913. Morris was born March 10, 1915. The mother of these children was born February 11, 1883, in Seneca, Kans., and is a daughter of John Baldwin, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume.

**James E. Woodworth.**—It is evident that James E. Woodworth, cashier of the Farmers State Bank of Corning, was destined for his chosen profession. During the fourteen years, in which he has been connected with this bank, he has displayed marked aptitude for the profession of banking and has risen to a high place among the banking fraternity, with whom he has cast his lot. The confidence in which he is held by the shareholders of the Farmers State Bank and the universal esteem, which is accorded him by the patrons of the bank and his fellow citizens, simply constitute a just recognition of his ability. Mr. Woodworth was born on a farm in Jackson county, Kansas, November 8, 1878, and is a son of William H. and Sophia A. (Latimer) Woodworth.

William H. Woodworth, his father, was born in Cattaraugus county, New York, March 4, 1847, and is a son of Hilon and Cordelia (Winters) Woodworth, both of whom were natives of New York. Hilon Woodworth was employed in the woolen mills of his native State until his removal to Henry county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming until his demise. William H. lived in Henry county, Illinois, until his migration to Kansas in 1870, where he made settlement in Jackson county. He followed farming until 1906 with success, and became owner of 160 acres of land. In 1906 he retired to a home at Holton, Kans. To William H. and Sophia Woodworth were born the following children: Francis, cashier of the Kansas State Bank, Holton, Kans.;

William H., Jr., a farmer of Jackson county, Kansas; James E., subject of this review; Mary R., deceased; Edson S., assistant cashier of the Farmers State Bank, Corning. The mother of the foregoing children was born in Kosciusko county, Indiana, March 30, 1843. She is a daughter of Francis H. and Rebecca Latimer, who were born and reared in New England. The Latimers moved to Jackson county, Kansas, in 1864, and engaged in farming. Mrs. Latimer also taught school in the neighborhood of their farm, north of Holton.

James E. Woodworth attended the district school in his home neighborhood, and also pursued a commercial course at Campbell University, Holton, Kans. In August of 1901, he came to Corning, and took the position of bookkeeper of the Farmers State Bank. In 1905, he became cashier of this flourishing institution. He and his brother Edson own a farm of 120 acres in Red Vermillion township.

Mr. Woodworth was married at Corning to Miss Pansy Robison, September 26, 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Woodworth have one child, namely: Beatrice, born May 21, 1908. Mrs. Woodworth was born at Sheldon, Iowa, April 1, 1885, and is a daughter of George Milton and Vinnie E. (Robinson) Robison, both of whom were natives of Iowa. George Milton Robison was born near Winterset, Iowa, February 7, 1846, and died July 12, 1908. His wife, Vinnie A., was born in Rushville, Ill., (Schuyler county), January 16, 1851, and taught school in Illinois, and in Dallas county, Iowa, where her marriage with George Milton Robison took place. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Robison removed to their home on a farm near Storm Lake, Iowa. In 1888, the Robison family removed to Nemaha county, Kansas, and farmed here until Mr. Robison was deprived of his eyesight in 1895. They then moved to Corning, where Mr. Robison died, July 12, 1908. They were the parents of six children. Mrs. Woodworth is a graduate of the Corning High School.

The Republican party has always had the allegiance of Mr. Woodworth, and he is serving as a member of the Corning city council, a position in which he takes a deep interest, because of his public spirit and a desire to see his home city make greater progress along civic lines. He has been a member of the city council for the past ten years, and is also a member of the city school board, a situation which enables him to further the cause of education. He and Mrs. Woodworth are members of the United Brethren church. He is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

**John William Hybskmann** is a successful hardware and furniture dealer in Corning, Kans. He was born November 16, 1874, in Seneca, Kans., and is the son of August H. and Margaret (Nelson) Hybskmann, whose biographies are set forth elsewhere in this volume.

Mr. Hybskmann was reared in Centralia, Kans. He attended the grammar schools of Centralia and, at the age of eighteen, he began

clerking in a hardware store at Vermillion, Kans. Three years later, he went to Goff, Kansas, and worked for Charles Kenison, a hardware and furniture dealer, and five years later, he and his brother went into business at Axtell, Kans., where they combined a plumbing and tinner's business with their own. In 1909, their partnership was dissolved, and William Hybskmann came to Corning, where he purchased a stock of hardware and furniture, valued at \$3,000. By courteous treatment and judicious business practice, he has more than trebled his original stock, the value of his store now being \$10,000. This growth speaks volumes for his business acumen.

He has been fire chief in Corning, and takes an active interest in the public affairs of the community. He belongs to the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

On May 7, 1901, he was married to Hattie Berridge, who was born September 2, 1877, at Netawaka, Kans. They have three children, Vance, Audry and Drothy, all living at home. Mrs. Hybskmann is the daughter of Thomas Berridge. Her mother's maiden name was Maria Gibbons. Her father was born in England and came to Goff, Kans., in the early days, to engage in the retail mercantile and lumber business. He is now living in retirement in Topeka, and is enjoying the fruits of his many years of hard labor. His wife is dead.

Mr. Hybskmann, in addition to being an experienced hardware and furniture dealer, is an embalmer, having studied that work in Kansas City, Mo., several years ago. He is a staunch Republican, and a public spirited citizen, although he has never sought public office. What honors have come to him have come of their own volition, he has never gone after them.

**Dr. William Heuschele.**—Few professional men in Corning enjoy so wide a reputation as does Dr. William H. Heuschele, physician and surgeon, and county health officer of Nemaha county. He was born July 25, 1884, at St. Joseph, Mo., and is the son of Julius W. and Mary (Lashaway) Heuschele. They were the parents of one other child, Mrs. Tillie Castle, Andrew county, Missouri. Dr. Heuschele's father was born in September, 1861, in New York. He was employed by the Vanatta Wholesale Drug Company, St. Joseph, Mo., from 1880 to 1912. He is now retired, and is living in St. Joseph, Mo. His parents came from Germany to New York. Dr. Heuschele's mother was born in Canada in 1864, and is yet living.

Dr. Heuschele attended the public and high schools at St. Joseph, Mo. He worked with his father in the wholesale drug house for some time and, in 1906, he entered the Ensworth Medical College, St. Joseph, Mo. He was graduated there in 1910, and became assistant physician at the State hospital, St. Joseph, eighteen months later. He later came to Corning and began his practice, and has gained a high reputation as a physician and surgeon. He was married in 1911 to Grace E. Miller, who was born April 22, 1890, at Anna, Illinois. She

is the daughter of Thomas and Sarah A. (Hultz) Miller, natives of Kentucky and Virginia. The father was an expert accountant. Both parents are living. Mrs. Heuschele attended school in St. Joseph and the seminary at Keokuk, Iowa.

Mr. Heuschele is a Democrat in politics. He is county health officer of Nemaha county, and is performing the duties of that office with entire satisfaction. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and is well liked by his associates. He has a large and remunerative practice which he has built up through hard work and medical skill.

**John W. Andrews**, police judge of Corning, Kans., was born in Michigan City, Ind., October 15, 1862. He is a son of John W. and Laura (Cramm) Andrews, to whom four children were born, as follows: James, deceased; Mrs. Laura McKinnel, deceased; Charles B., twin brother of John W., was formerly sheriff of Nemaha county, and was also engaged in the livery business with his brother at Corning, and now makes his home in Seneca.

John W., father of Judge Andrews, was born in Pennsylvania in 1830 and, when a young man, he moved to Michigan City, Indiana, and followed his trade of tanner. He became prominent in the affairs of his adopted city, and served as postmaster of Michigan City during President Lincoln's administration. His death occurred in 1862. Mrs. Laura Andrews, mother of John W., subject of this review, was born in Pennsylvania in 1836, and departed this life in 1898. The widow Andrews was married again, to H. B. Thomas, a contractor of Michigan City, who died in 1896.

Judge Andrews was educated in the Michigan City schools, and graduated from the high school of his home city. When about twenty-two years old, he came west and located in Chautauqua county, Kansas, where he invested in 240 acres of land, which he farmed until 1888. He made a visit back to the old home of the family in Indiana and, in 1889, came to Corning, and invested his capital in a livery business at Corning in partnership with his brother, Charles. He continued in the livery business until 1897, and was then appointed postmaster of Corning, a position which he held until December, 1914. Mr. Andrews is well-to-do, and owns property in Corning. He has been conducting a real estate and insurance business in Corning for some time, and also deals in farm loans. He represents the Continental, Aetna, the Capital Live Stock Company insurance companies, and does an excellent business. Mr. Andrews has accomplished a great deal in his life time, and is deserving of more than ordinary credit and honor for the part he has played in the civic body, because of the fact that he has been a cripple since childhood.

Judge Andrews was married, in 1899, to Kathrine Sauers, who was born in Atchison, Kans., in 1868, and is a daughter of William Sauers, who was a harness maker in the early days, and came from Atchison



to Corning. Four children have been born of this marriage, namely: James K., St. Joseph, Mo.; Lulu, at home; Minnie, pursuing a course in nursing; John W. Jr., at home with his parents.

The Republican party has always had the allegiance of Judge Andrews, and he has been generally interested in political matters. He served five years as a member of the Corning city council, and is police judge of the city. He has filled the office of justice of the peace since 1893. He is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America, and is now serving as clerk of the local Woodmen, which office he has held for seventeen years.

**Elmer A. Miller** is a well-known grain dealer of Corning, Kans. He has built up a large and profitable business by his straight-out policy of square dealing and small profits.

He was born March 28, 1881, near Goff, Kans. He is the son of Johnson and Lettia (Way) Miller, who were the parents of nine children, all of whom are living. Mr. Miller was the eighth child. His father was born December 20, 1837, in Indiana, and was reared on the farm. In 1859, he came to Douglass county, Kansas, driving an ox team. He went to Colorado in 1863 on a prospecting trip, and again drove his yoke of oxen. He mined near Denver until 1879, when he came to Nemaha county, Kansas, and bought eighty acres in Harrison township, paying ten dollars an acre for it. In 1899, he sold out and moved to Corning where he retired, and in 1908, he moved to Centralia, where he now lives. The mother of Elmer Miller was born in Illinois, February 14, 1840. Both parents are members of the Methodist church.

Elmer Miller attended the district schools, and was graduated from Goff High School in 1898. He taught school four years in the district schools of Nemaha county. He worked in a lumber yard two years, and in 1903, went to Everest, Kans., for the same company. The following year he became manager for this firm at Bigelow, Kans. This in itself is a most fervent testimonial to his business ability and the fact that in 1905 he bought one-half interest in the firm shows that he was in good favor. He sold out his interests in 1912, and engaged in the real estate business at Centralia, Kans., until 1914, when he came to Corning, and bought a half interest in the grain elevator with C. A. Hilbert. He is now grain buyer. In addition to his Nemaha county holdings, Mr. Miller owns 240 acres of Oklahoma land.

He was married in 1909 to Lenoa G. Brown, who was born November 11, 1881, in Kentucky. She was graduated from Corning High School, and died December 16, 1914, leaving one child, Helen, who is also dead. She was the daughter of William and Mahala (Offal) Brown. She was a cultured and much loved woman. She graduated from the Effingham School of Music, and taught in this school for seven years. Mr. Miller is a member of the Methodist church, and belongs to the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He votes the Democratic ticket.

Mr. Miller is a most successful business man, and enjoys a wide



reputation in the vicinity of Corning. He has always been conservative in his investments, and has never squandered his money in riotous living. Mr. Miller is a man of whom the community is proud, and he, in turn, has done many good things for Corning. Whenever he gets a chance, he always turns business toward Corning, and the town owes much to him.

**Charles C. Townsend**, farmer and stockman of Home township, was born in Ulster county, New York, February 18, 1861, and is a son of Ransom and Sarah (Schoonmaker) Townsend, who were the parents of nine children, six of whom are living. Ransom Townsend was born in Green county, New York, June 27, 1822, learned the trade of carpenter and followed it all of his long life. He migrated to Nemaha county in 1870 with his family of six children, and bought a homestead claim of eighty acres, for which he paid \$160. Twenty acres of his claim was already broken up and had been in cultivation. He built a house, which is still standing, although the first home of the family was a cabin built of native logs, in which they lived for two years. The sons of the family did practically all of the farming, while the father followed his trade in the surrounding country. He died February 8, 1906. The Townsend family is of English descent. The mother of Charles C. was born in Orange county, New York, November 24, 1825, and died May 10, 1914. Both Mr. and Mrs. Townsend were devout Methodists and deeply religious people, who reared their children to become God-fearing men and women.

Charles C. Townsend received his early education in the district schools of Ulster county, New York, and also attended the school in district No. 1, in Home township. When he attained the age of twenty-five years he rented land on his own account from his father, and in 1906 he bought the home farm of 160 acres in section 14 of Home township. He has improved this place and is a breeder of Duroc Jersey swine. Mr. Townsend is a member of the Farmers Union, and is a shareholder in the Farmers Elevator Company, at Centralia.

Mr. Townsend was married in 1887 to Miss Kate Torrance, who has borne him the following children, namely: Mrs. Carrie Campbell, St. Joseph, Mo., who was born September 1, 1888, in Illinois township, and graduated from the Centralia High School, and after attending the Seneca High School for two years, she taught in Nemaha county from 1905 to 1906, and also in 1906 and 1907, and is the mother of one child, Virginia; Jennie S., born December 23, 1891, and died January 8, 1892; Charles P., born November 13, 1895, and died April 7, 1896. Mrs. Kate Townsend was born in Essex county, New York, January 16, 1860, and is a daughter of Parker and Jeanette (Minor) Torrance. Her father was a butcher by trade and was born November 18, 1827, and died December 21, 1900. Her mother was born in New York in 1828, and died in 1864.

Mr. Townsend is a staunch Democrat, who believes thoroughly in

the principles of his party, and is a warm admirer of President Wilson and the Wilson policies. He is serving the people as township clerk and is ever ready to give his services in a civic capacity in behalf of his neighbors and friends. He and Mrs. Townsend are members of the Congregational Church, of which organization he is a deacon and one of the trustees. They contribute very liberally to their church, and are active workers in Congregational church circles.

**David Funk**, president of the State Bank of Oneida, and prosperous agriculturist of Gilman township, was born in Putnam county, Ohio, September 30, 1844, and was reared on his father's farm. When nineteen years of age, he enlisted for the Union service in Company F, One Hundred Fifty-first Ohio infantry, and served for four months. His regiment was one of the one hundred day organizations formed in Ohio at that time. He remained in Putnam county until 1868, and then decided to try his fortunes in the West. He came to Nemaha county, Kansas, and bought eighty acres of land, two acres of which had been broken up and placed in cultivation, and the improvements on the place consisted of a log cabin. Mr. Funk set to work and built a two room frame house, more in keeping with his ideas of a home to which he added in 1873 another room, later adding another room in 1880. The first crops he raised on the place were good yields of oats and corn, and he was soon able to add another "eighty" to his holdings, in 1883. Two years later, he bought another eighty acres, and at the present time, is the owner of a fine farm of 257 acres, upon which are located two good farm houses, one of which is a seven room residence, (his own home), and the other, (his son's home), consists of nine rooms erected in 1891. In 1910 Mr. Funk exchanged homes with his son, and since that time his son has managed the farm on the shares system.

In addition to his land holdings, Mr. Funk has considerable banking interests, and is president and a director of the State Bank of Oneida, a thriving financial concern with which he became connected in 1894, and was elected to the presidency of the same in 1906.

The parents of David Funk were Henry and Elizabeth (Hampshire) Funk. Henry Funk was born in Virginia in 1809, and died in Ohio in 1884. For over a half century, he owned and operated a farm in Putnam county, Ohio, which he cleared from the dense wilderness. His wife, Elizabeth, was born in Pennsylvania in 1817, and departed this life, January 31, 1908. When her husband died, she came to Kansas in 1887, and lived in Oneida until 1903, and then made her home with her son, David, until her demise. Six children were born to Henry and Elizabeth Funk, as follows: Samuel, a carpenter living at Sioux City, Neb.; John, a farmer of Gilman township; David, the subject of this review; Abraham, carpenter and contractor, Kelly, Kans.; Henry, a painter at Beaver Dam, Ohio; a daughter died in infancy.

David Funk was married in 1862 to Sarah L. Guffy of Putnam county, Ohio, and this union has been blessed with the following chil-



DAVID FUNK AND WIFE AND THE FUNK FARM HOME.



dren: Henry, deceased; Frank, Portland, Ore., city salesman for a large wholesale house; Esther; Molly; May; Flora, deceased; Carl, Portland, Ore., grocer; Ralph, a practicing physician at Powhattan, Kans.; Chester, at home and managing the parental farm; Mrs. Lottie Wenger, Price, Kans. The mother of these children was born September 7, 1844, and at the age of twelve years, began working out as domestic at from twenty-five cents to \$1 per week until marriage. She is a daughter of Aquilla and Jerusha Ann (Ford) Guffy, the former of whom was born in Franklin county, Ohio, in 1816, and died April 4, 1862. The mother of Mrs. Funk was born in Warren county, Ohio, June 2, 1821, and departed this life, December 12, 1912, in Kansas, whither she came in 1865, after her husband's demise. Previous to his demise, Mr. Guffy, in 1860, had invested in 800 acres of land in Nemaha county, and had planned to make a home near Oneida, but death intervened. Mrs. Guffy remained in Kansas for about ten years, and then returned to Ohio, sold her Kansas land and married Michael Weaver, who died seventeen years later. After Mr. Weaver's demise, she again came to Kansas and made her home with her children until her demise. There were seven children in the Guffy family, as follows: Joseph, an invalid for the past seven years, Seneca, Kans.; Nancy Jane, deceased; Phoebe Ann Burke, Oneida, Kans.; Sarah L., wife of the subject of this review; John, deceased; Mary M. (Shaffer) Largent, Ontario, Canada, and Rosa, deceased.

Mr. Funk is a Republican in politics and has taken an active part in the civic affairs of his township and county. Early in the eighties he served as township trustee, and for the past four years he has filled the office of township treasurer. Mrs. Funk has been a member of the Christian church since 1858 and is an active worker in the affairs of the church. David Funk is a loyal Kansan who will go down in history as one of the sturdy and successful pioneers of a great county and state; he is proud of the fact that he was a pioneer settler of Nemaha county, and the county is proud of him and his kind, who are the backbone and sinew of the civic body, and one of the good old American stock who have been pioneers and blazed the path of empire from the Atlantic coast to the far West through successive generations. It is a matter of note that Mr. and Mrs. Funk were rocked in the same cradle, the paternal homes of each being within sight of each other, in Putnam county, Ohio.

**Peter T. Casey.**—The late Peter T. Casey, of Corning, Kans., was born in the province of Nova Scotia, Dominion of Canada, June 23, 1844, and was a son of John and Margaret (Tulloch) Casey, who were the parents of ten children, two of whom survive, and of whom Mr. Casey was the third in order of birth. John Casey, his father, was born in Nova Scotia in 1813, and was a blacksmith by trade. In fact, for generations, the members of the Casey family have been smiths and were of sturdy, honest and industrious stock. John Casey never ventured beyond the borders of his native land of Acadia, and departed this life December 21, 1884. Peter T. Casey's mother was born in

Nova Scotia in 1817. In the year following her husband's death, she left her old home in the Dominion, and made the long journey to Corning, where she remained and was cared for by her son until her death, November 7, 1890.

Mr. Casey spent his boyhood in attending school in his native land and early learned to swing a hammer and sledge in his father's smithy. He grew up sturdy, strong and ambitious. The spirit of adventure and longing to come to the States obsessed him when he arrived at man's estate, and he made his way to Atchison, Kans., in 1867. He remained in this city four years and plied his trade with profit, saving during his four years of labor a sum of \$600, which was sufficient to make a payment upon a tract of farm land, which it was his ambition to own. In 1870, he came to Nemaha county and purchased a homestead of eighty acres for \$1,500. This land is located in section 26, and was probably the site of the first blacksmith shop in Illinois township. Mr. Casey erected a smithy on his farm and soon had all the trade he could possibly manage and his services as a skilled blacksmith were in great demand by the settlers, who were coming into the township in ever increasing numbers. In fact, the Casey shop served the farmers of southern Nemaha county from far and near, and he prospered. He sold his farm in 1871, and located in Corning at a time when the embryo village was but a trading point, with only one general store. Six years later he again went to the farm and remained on his farm until 1887. In that year he started a general store in the growing town and achieved a large measure of success, building up a considerable trade, which required that he carry over \$6,000 worth of goods in stock. In 1889 he traded his store for the present beautiful home of the family and engaged in the banking business. He organized a company, which formed the Farmers State Bank of Corning, and filled the post of cashier of the bank for nine years. At the expiration of this period he again resumed his mercantile business, but sold out his store in 1900 to George Leuck & Company and retired from active business pursuits, well content with what he had accomplished. At the time of his demise he owned stock in the Farmers State Bank and also owned 480 acres of farm land in Red Vermillion township, and possessed real estate in Corning.

Mr. Casey was married in 1873 to Miss Maria O. Swan, and five children were born to this marriage, as follows: Lela, deceased, wife of L. S. Slocum; Nellie, deceased; Mrs. Jennie Keith, living in New Mexico; Mrs. Mabel Baker, Corning, Kans.; Alfred, farming near Corning, Kans.; Mrs. Jennie Keith is a talented artist, who has done considerable artistic work in oil. Mrs. Maria O. Casey was born at Bremen, Cook county, Illinois, November 15, 1854, and is a daughter of Alfred and Frances (Church) Swan, natives of New York. Her father was killed while serving as a volunteer in the Union army during the Civil war, and Mrs. Casey's mother died soon after his death. The orphaned daughter then came to Nemaha county, Kansas, when twelve years old,

and was reared in the home of her uncle, Frank Church, who gave her the advantages of a good education. She taught two terms of school in Nemaha county previous to her marriage with Mr. Casey.

Mr. Casey was a member of the Presbyterian church and was a liberal giver to religious needs. He was affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Knights and Ladies of Security. The Republican political party generally had his allegiance and support and he filled the post of trustee of his township and also served as a member of the city council of Corning.

The death of this successful and highly esteemed citizen occurred on April 24, 1916, and was the result of an accident. Even in his later years it was Mr. Casey's wont to look after his farming interests in person, and he spent much of his time doing work in order to keep his mind and body in action. On the date mentioned above he was engaged in hauling fence posts to his farm, and the team which he was driving probably started while Mr. Casey was standing in the rear part of the wagon. The sudden jerk of the horses starting at a gallop is thought to have thrown him to the ground backward and death resulted from the injuries received. His body was found lifeless in the field. Peter T. Casey will long be remembered as a valued citizen of Corning and one of the real pioneers of Nemaha county, whose name is indelibly linked for all time to come with the building and development of a rich and fertile section of Kansas.

**Clarkson A. Hilbert**, grain dealer and farmer of Corning, Kans., is a member of one of the first pioneer families of Nemaha county, and has spent nearly his whole life within the borders of the county. The story of his career is an epitome of successful endeavor, and he has succeeded at all of his undertakings. Mr. Hilbert was born in Atchison, Kans., October 17, 1869, and is a son of Henry and Eliza (Conard) Hilbert.

Henry Hilbert, his father, was born on a farm in Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania, November 29, 1844, and is a son of John and Sarah Hilbert. John Hilbert, his father, was a miner by occupation, and died in 1844, when Henry was an infant. Henry Hilbert was reared on the family farm and, at the outbreak of the Civil war, he enlisted at Lion Lex, Bucks county, Pennsylvania, in Company H, One Hundred Thirty-eight Pennsylvania infantry, and fought in his first engagement at Brandy Station, Va., and was in the battle of Spottsylvania Court House. He was taken prisoner by Confederates at or near Baltimore, Md., and was first interred in the prison camp at Danville, Va., from which point he was transferred to the notorious Libby prison. He remained in Libby prison for seven months and eleven days until his release. He was mustered out of the service in 1865, when the war was ended. In 1867, he went to Elkhart, Ind., and was employed in grubbing land and cradling wheat during his first season. In those days, the wheat was mowed with a scythe and cradle, and all hay and

grass was mowed laboriously by hand. In 1869, he went to Atchison, Kans., and farmed near that city for one year, and then homesteaded a quarter section of land in section 30, Harrison township, Nemaha county. He built a small home 14x20 feet in size with a height of ten feet. This home was built of concrete, and was one of the first buildings of the kind, to be erected on the prairies, and the fifth house to be built in Harrison township. It is recalled that Mr. and Mrs. Hilbert gathered up pebbles and small stones from the prairie in an old wash boiler, and they carried water for the concrete mixing a distance of ninety feet. Building a home in this manner was very slow and hard work, but they eventually got the job done, and were proud of their new home. In the course of time, they enlarged the original small dwelling to one of comfortable proportions. During their first year on the farm, their stock of provisions were only fifty pounds of flour and fifty cents worth of sugar, which they used only on state occasions, when they had company for meals. During those first years, Mrs. Hilbert became discouraged and cried because of the fact that their main provender for months and months was corn bread. One occasion when she was crying bitterly over their hard lot, Henry said to his wife, "Mother, let us go back East." This suggestion aroused her pride and latent spirit, and she replied spiritedly, "No, we came here to make a home, and here we stay." That was the true spirit of the pioneer men and women of Kansas, which enabled them to endure privations, poverty and hardships, and meant, in time, the winning of the great West. For the first four years of his residence in Kansas, Henry Hilbert never knew the luxury of a pair of leather shoes. He and his devoted wife were married in 1868. Mrs. Eliza Conard Hilbert was born in Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania, in March, 1845. The following children blessed this happy union, as follows: Clarkson A., subject of this review; Mrs. Margaret Conard, living in Illinois township; Isaac, died at the age of fourteen; William, a well known breeder of Belgian horses of Harrison township; John, living in California; Robert, a farmer of Illinois township; Joseph, deceased.

Henry Hilbert retired from the farm in 1908, and is now living a retired life in Corning. He is one of the charter members of the Corning Grand Army post, and is universally esteemed as an excellent citizen.

Clarkson A. Hilbert was reared to young manhood on the pioneer farm in Harrison township, and attended the Harris district school. When seventeen years old, he entered Leocompton University, Kansas, located in Douglas county, and studied in that institution for three terms, studying bookkeeping and kindred subjects. He then worked out as a farm hand for one year prior to renting a farm in December, 1892. He rented land for six years in section 13 of Illinois township, and was enabled to buy the tract in 1898. This farm is well improved, and is located about three miles north of Corning. When Mr. Hilbert



became the owner, he built a new home of eight rooms, erected a large barn forty feet square and practically rebuilt all of the fencing, which was in a delapidated state. He built his barn in 1904, and completed his residence in 1905. The Hilbert farm comprises 220 acres of land in a high state of cultivation. In March of 1915, Mr. Hilbert engaged in the grain business at Corning in partnership with E. A. Miller.

Clarkson A. Hilbert was married December 22, 1892, to Miss Nettie J. Kline, born February 22, 1873, in Perry county, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Jacob L. and Mary E. (Crow) Kline, natives of Pennsylvania, who immigrated to Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1882, and made a settlement in Illinois township. Mrs. Hilbert attended Pleasant Ridge school, district No. 17. Jacob L. Kline, her father, was born June 11, 1836, in Prairie county, Pennsylvania, and died June 5, 1915. His demise occurred in the Hilbert home, resulting from illness which came upon him, in western Kansas, near Garden City, whither he had gone to homestead a tract of government land. He was married to Mary E. Crow, May 14, 1871. They were the parents of two children, namely: Mrs. Nettie J. Hilbert, and George A., born September 14, 1875, a resident of Kansas City, Mo. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Clarkson Hilbert, namely: Mary E., a teacher in the Nemaha county schools; Floyd O., the first born, is deceased; Curtis C., graduate of the Corning High School; Urbin R., deceased; Lester and Gertrude E.

Mr. Hilbert is allied with the Republican party, and is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America. For the past eighteen years, he has been a member of the district school board. Mr. and Mrs. Hilbert are members of the United Brethren and the Methodist churches, respectively.

**Edward S. Vernon**, retired pioneer and Union veteran of Corning, Kans., has fought bravely in two great struggles during his long life, the first of which was in defense of the Union, where he offered his life and faithful service in behalf of his country on the bloody battlefields of the Southland; the second was the equally brave fight which he and his young wife waged on the Nemaha county prairies in the creation of a home in order that they might rear their family in comfort and have a competence in their declining years. They won—inasmuch as they were made of the material which is inherent in the American pioneers. After years of industry and honest striving to make a beautiful country home and a fruitful farm on the prairie, they are enabled to live in peaceful retirement in their comfortable home near the school grounds, where daily they take enjoyment from the happy play of the children of their friends and neighbors.

Edward S. Vernon was born near Zanesville, Ohio, November 13, 1842, and is a son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Spry) Vernon, to whom four children were born, one of whom, John W., recently died in Corning; the second was Mrs. Eliza J. Woolard, deceased; William A., Osceola, Iowa, and Edward S., subject of this review.

Samuel Vernon, his father, was born on a farm in Muskingum county, Ohio, June 12, 1810, and was a son of John and Elizabeth (Bowers) Vernon, the former of whom was a native of Bucks county, Pennsylvania, born January 11, 1788, and died July 31, 1866. Mrs. Elizabeth Vernon, grandmother of Edward S., was born November 24, 1790, and died April 25, 1880. It will thus be seen that Mr. Vernon is descended from pure American ancestry.

Edward S. Vernon was reared amid the rugged hills of his native county in Ohio and received his elementary schooling in a log school house, which he attended until the call came from President Lincoln for troops with which to quell the rebellion of the Southern States. He enlisted December 18, 1861, in Company F, Seventy-eighth Ohio infantry. Upon its formation the regiment was sent immediately to Fort Donelson, Tenn., and later the young soldier received his first baptism of fire at the great battle of Shiloh. The fighting from then on was continuous, and he fought in all of the fierce engagements around Vicksburg until the surrender of the city by General Pemberton with 30,000 Confederates. July 22, 1864, his command witnessed and took part in the fall of Atlanta, and he accompanied General Sherman's grand army in its victorious march from Atlanta to the sea, marching afoot all the way. He received his honorable discharge from the service July 11, 1865, at Louisville, Ky. At the close of his service he was sergeant of his company. He was appointed corporal March 1, 1863, and was appointed sergeant July 23, 1864. He at once returned home, and after farming with his father for a year, he rented a farm in the home neighborhood for three years. He then listened to the call of the great West for settlers to assist in the building up of a new domain as part of the United States, and he decided to come to Kansas in search of a permanent home. He and Mrs. Vernon came by train as far as Topeka, and then drove overland to the site of his homestead in section 32, Illinois township. His first house was a story and a half building, 16x24 feet in size. During 1875 a school session of three months was held in this then pretentious home, probably because it was larger than the average pioneer home. In the course of time Mr. and Mrs. Vernon prospered and added to their possessions until they owned 240 acres of land, which Mr. Vernon cultivated until 1897, and then retired to a home in Corning.

Mr. Vernon was married in 1866 to Miss Martha Stiers, who was born September 22, 1846, at Adamsville, Ohio, and is a daughter of John W. and Cornelia (Bagley) Stiers. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Vernon, as follows: Samuel W., a ranchman at Delta, Colo.; Frank W., Olathe, Colo.; Newton L., farming the Vernon home place in Illinois township; Mrs. Mae Maneval, Corning; Edward G., Lawrence, Kans.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon are members of the Methodist Church. Mr. Vernon is a staunch Republican, who has taken an active part in civic

and political affairs in his township and county. He filled the post of trustee of Illinois township, and served as a member of the school board of district No. 66 for twenty-one years, and was a member of the Corning school board for three years. He still takes an active interest in county affairs, and is usually found in the forefront of all matters tending to advance the interests of his home county and adopted State, which he has assisted so materially in making. He is greatly interested in the Grand Army of the Republic and is a valued and influential member of this once mighty organization. He was appointed commander of the Corning Grand Army Post in 1883, and filled this honorable position for eighteen years in all.

**Frecey A. Clark**, manager of the Corning Telephone Company, and owner and manager of the Electric theatre at Corning, is among the most progressive business men of the community. He is making a success of this business enterprise and is only waiting for bigger fields to open up before expanding his interests.

Mr. Clark was born November 25, 1889, in Harrison township, near Kelly, Kans. He is a son of James and Sarah B. (Shaffer) Clark. Another son, Bert, is deceased. James Clark was born near Seneca, Kans., in 1867. He farmed practically all of his life prior to 1901. For two years he managed the hotel in Corning. Then he worked in the creamery and also for the Lueck General Merchandise Company. He is now employed by the Brown-Smith general merchandise store, of Corning, and is constable of Illinois township. Mr. Clark is a Republican in politics. The mother of Frecey Clark was born in Iowa.

Frecey Clark attended district school in Oklahoma and public school in Corning. He began working for the telephone company in 1907, and in 1913 was promoted to the managership. This rise speaks for itself concerning Mr. Clark's future and his ability. He opened a motion picture theatre in 1915, which is showing two pictures a week. He was married May 11, 1913, to Dottie Allen, daughter of Erve and Elizabeth (Wion) Allen. She was born near Corning, Kans., September 20, 1890. Her parents were early settlers, who still live on their farm in Illinois township. No children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Clark. They live in an excellent modern home in Corning and are among the most promising young people of the town.

**Leonard M. Shaefer**, a leading farmer and stockman of Home township, Nemaha county, Kansas, was born in Ulster county, New York, July 4, 1865. His parents were Adam and Wilhelmina (Smith) Shaefer, to whom were born five sons and a daughter. Adam Shaefer, his father, was born in Germany in 1827, and left his native land when twenty-seven years old, in 1854. On the same ship on which he sailed was his intended wife. He settled in New York and worked in a glass factory at Ellenville, N. Y., until 1871. He took his savings in that year and came West for the purpose of making a home for himself and his family on the prairies of Nemaha county, Kansas. He made a settlement on sec-

tion 26, in Home township, and paid \$7 an acre for land, which has since increased in value many times. The first home of the Shaefer was a small affair, 16x20 feet in dimensions, with a small "lean-to" kitchen. He lived on this tract for twenty years, and was a herder and feeder of cattle for many years. At this time, when Mr. Shaefer settled in Home township, there were great tracts as yet unpeopled, which were used for cattle ranges, and Leonard Shaefer rode horseback for several seasons while looking after his father's herds as they grazed upon the prairie. Adam Shaefer died in 1892. His wife, Wilhelmina, was born in Germany, March 25, 1832, and died in March, 1904. The marriage of Adam and Wilhelmina Shaefer took place at Ellenville, N. Y. Both were members of the Lutheran Church.

Leonard M. Shaefer was five years old when the family settled in Nemaha county, and he soon learned to enjoy the freedom of the great outdoors and especially liked to ride horseback over the country and cheerfully herded cattle during the long summer seasons. He attended the Armstrong school and district No. 73, and received as much schooling as the average Kansas boy in those days. He has always lived on the home farm of the Shaefer, and came into possession of the home place upon the death of his parents. Since becoming the owner of his 160-acre tract, he has built a handsome nine-room residence and made other substantial improvements, which have enhanced the value of his place. A three-acre wood planted by the elder Shaefer assists in beautifying the Shaefer home place and affords fuel and lumber for the farm. Mr. Shaefer is a member of the Farmers Union at Centralia.

He was married in 1890 to Susan Casto, who was born in Missouri in 1871. She is a daughter of William Casto, who came to Nemaha county and engaged in raising cattle and other live stock. He, William, died in Home township. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Shaefer, as follows: Mrs. Gertrude Myers, living near Sabetha; Albert, living in Idaho; Arthur, attending school at Grand Island, Neb.; Lloyd, at home with his parents.

Mr. Shaefer is a Republican. He and Mrs. Shaefer are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and lead honest and kindly lives, at peace with all of their neighbors and highly esteemed by all who know them for their many good qualities. Mr. Shaefer is affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen lodge of Centralia.

**Robert E. Wilson.**—Fortune has certainly smiled upon Robert E. Wilson, of Home township, since his locating in Nemaha county, Kans., a little over twenty years ago. His home farm in Home township is well improved and highly productive as a result of his skill as a farmer, and his shrewd financial ability and good management have enabled him to become the owner of 1,120 acres of land, including a section of prairie land in Thomas county, Kansas.

Mr. Wilson was born in Davis county, Missouri, March 4, 1871, and is a son of Elwood C. and Sarah Ann (Handruth) Wilson, to whom

eight children were born, all of whom are living at the present time. Elwood Wilson, his father, was born in Grasson county, Virginia, and served the Confederacy in a Virginia regiment during the Civil war. He was wounded in battle by a Northern sharpshooter, but recovered from the wound. After the war, he came North to Nebraska, and settled at Glenn Rock, where he is now living a retired life. His wife, Sarah Ann, was born in Richmond county, Virginia, in 1851. Both are members of the Dunkard sect.

Robert E. Wilson was reared on his father's farm and attended school in Missouri and Nebraska. He followed farming in Nebraska until 1896, and then came to Nemaha county, Kansas. He rented land in this county and in Marshall county until 1902, and then purchased his present home farm of 160 acres in section 35, Home township. He has increased his land holdings to 480 acres in Nemaha county, and owns 640 acres in Thomas county, Kansas.

He erected a neat cottage home on his place in 1902 and built a large barn, 38x42 feet in size, in 1910. There are five acres of natural timber upon his land, located in Neuchatel township.

Mr. Wilson was married in 1896 to Miss Elva Welliver, and this marriage has been blessed with three children, as follows: Clarence, born in 1900; Faye, born in 1904; Hazel, born in 1914. Mrs. Elva Wilson was born in Illinois, May 28, 1877, and is a daughter of Perry and Amy (Dunn) Welliver, who were the parents of five children, three of whom are living. Mrs. Wilson's mother is residing at Centralia. The Welliver family came to Nemaha county in 1883.

The Republican party has generally had the allegiance and support of Mr. Wilson, and he is a member of the school board of district No. 73. He and Mrs. Wilson generally comport themselves as become honest, hard working and responsible citizens, who are well esteemed in their neighborhood. Mr. Wilson's specialty, and one which he has found highly remunerative, is the feeding of large numbers of cattle yearly, and it is a fact that he feeds and ships from two to three car loads of cattle each year.

**Edmond E. Williams**, successful farmer and stockman of Berwick township, was born in Oneida county, New York, November 8, 1860, and is a son of Robert E. and Elizabeth (Jenkins) Williams, who reared a family of four children, all of whom are living. Robert E. Williams, his father, was born on the Isle of Anglesea, North Wales, January 26, 1837, and was a son of Robert and Winfred (Edmonds) Williams. When Mr. Williams' father was eighteen years old, he immigrated to America and settled at Rome, Oneida county, New York. His only capital was twenty-five cents in money. During his first few years in Rome, he worked out as a farm hand, and was there married in 1859. Nine years later in 1868, he migrated to the great West, and made settlement at old Albany, Berwick township, Nemaha county, Kansas. He invested his savings in 160 acres of raw land, which cost him \$200.

The first home which Robert E. Williams built in Kansas was a crude affair, little more than a shanty 14x18 feet. He built a barn of poles, roofed with slough grass which served as a shelter for his live stock until he was able to erect a more substantial affair. Those were pioneer times in Nemaha county, and Edmond Williams remembers well the good and hard times, which were the lot of the early settlers. The Williams family fared reasonably well, however, and the elder Williams made good improvements on his place, set out trees to provide beauty and shade and furnish, in time, fuel for the fireside. No more industrious homesteader lived in Nemaha county than Robert E. Williams, and he worked early and late to provide for his family. His inherited Welsh thrift enabled him to get ahead, and he accumulated a large tract of 400 acres. He was an extensive sheep and dairyman during his active days, and retired from active farming pursuits in 1896. He moved to a home in Sabetha, and died there in 1902. The elder Williams was a stanch Methodist, who helped to organize and build the Methodist Church at old Albany. He was a strong Prohibitionist, and worked actively in behalf of the temperance and prohibition movement in Kansas. His faithful wife was born in Oneida county, New York, in the same house where the subject of this review was born. Her birth occurred July 31, 1838, and she is a daughter of Evan and Jane (Williams) Jenkins, who were born and reared in Wales. Mrs. Williams is now living in Sabetha.

Edmond E. Williams was eight years old when the Williams family came to Kansas, and he was reared to manhood on the farm where he now resides. He attended the district school at Albany, and also attended the Seneca High School, after which he pursued a commercial course at Gem City College in Illinois. He returned home from college in 1881, and began farming on an eighty acre tract in section 22, Berwick township, which his father gave him. He has prospered, and owns a total of 310 acres of land of which ten acres are covered with natural timber, and 100 acres of which lie over the county line in Brown county, Kansas. Mr. Williams has a large orchard of four acres, and has beautified his farm with shrubbery and trees. He has one of the best farm residences in Nemah county, erected at a cost of \$4,000, and which is thoroughly modern. He has a large barn 38x52 feet and other excellent improvements. Mr. Williams' specialty is Red Polled cattle, of which he is a breeder.

Edmond E. Williams was married in 1892 to Johanna Fox, and Mr. and Mrs. Williams have four children as follows: Joseph E., Owen C., Edna, and Robert, all of whom are at home with their parents. The mother of the foregoing children was born at Lacyville, Pa., February 14, 1867, and is a daughter of Joseph and Susanna (Baker) Fox, natives of the Keystone State. The Fox family settled in Brown county, near Albany, in Morrill township, as early as 1870, and there reared their family of eight children, of whom Mrs. Williams is the youngest. Mr.

and Mrs. Williams have given all of their children the advantages of a good school and college education, and are proud of their fine family.

While Mr. Williams generally supports the nominees of the Democratic party, he is inclined to be independent in his support of the various candidates at election time, and believes in voting for the individual who seems best fitted to fill the duties of the office sought. At present, he is treasurer of school district No. 1. He and Mrs. Williams are members of the Methodist church, of which organization he is a steward. Mr. Williams is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Modern Woodmen of America.

**Clinton A. Lynn**, of Home township, is one of the most successful of the younger farmers of Nemaha county. He is alert to all new knowledge, which is valuable to farmers, and is to be found in the front rank of every progressive movement. He has made a financial success of farming and stock raising, and in time, will be among the wealthiest farmers of the township.

Mr. Lynn was born July 5, 1883, in Mitchell township, Nemaha county, and is the son of William A. and Margaret (Wrought) Lynn, to whom were born these children: Mrs. Cora Baker, widow of G. C. Baker, Woodville, Ohio; Mrs. Jennie McNeil, wife of C. S. McNeil, of Home township, whose biography appears elsewhere in this volume; Lena, wife of J. M. Bennett, living with her mother at Independence, Kans.; Clinton, of whom this article is written. The father, William A. Lynn, was born in Orange county, New York, March 27, 1836. When a young man, the Civil war began, and he was among the first to offer his life to his country and joined the New York Eighth cavalry, Company K, at Rochester. He fought valiantly, and in the battle of Gettysburg, was shot in the head. By good service, he had been promoted to corporal, and was honorably discharged at the close of the war. He came West and worked at various places until 1872, when he settled in Nemaha county. He was engaged in farming during the famous grasshopper days but he, by careful management and hard work, came through with less loss than many farmers around him did. At the time of his death, 1900, he owned eighty acres of fine farming land in Mitchell township. He was a Republican and, for many years, acted as township trustee and road overseer. His father, Leander W. Lynn, was a well known physician and surgeon, a graduate of the University of New York. Dr. Lynn studied at Fairfield, N. Y., and gave many lectures on surgery, which was then just developing into the modern science, especially the practice and use of anaesthesia. The mother of William Lynn was born June 28, 1850, and is living with her daughter at Independence, Kans.

Clinton Lynn was reared on his father's Mitchell township farm. He attended district school and Centralia High School, after which he farmed with his father. At the age of twenty-two years, he bought the farm of 160 acres, which he now owns in section 14, Home township.



The place was only partly improved, Mr. Lynn completing the house after taking possession and also building part of the barn. He set out numerous trees and built fences around his land. He keeps a fine stock of cattle and hogs, and raises fancy barred Plymouth Rock chickens.

Mr. Lynn is a shareholder of the Farmers Union at Centralia, and in politics is a Progressive. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows lodge, and the Sons of Veterans. His father also was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and was given an emblem when he had been a member twenty-five years. Clinton Lynn now has the emblem, of which he is justly proud.

He was married to Florence Jessee, February 25, 1905. They have two children living: William J., and Etha M.; Fern W., the first child, is dead. Mrs. Lynn was born August 20, 1878, in Home township, Nemaha county. She is a daughter of David L. and Sobrinia (Buckels) Jessee. She attended both the district schools and the high school at Centralia, Kans. She taught music for some time, and is an accomplished musician.

Mr. Lynn is still a young man and has a great future before him. Home township is glad to count him as one of her most prosperous citizens.

**Jacob O. Kimmel**, farmer and stockman of Berwick township, was born in Stark county, Ohio, March 4, 1855. He is a son of Jacob and Eliza (Brumbaugh) Kimmel, natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio respectively. Jacob Kimmel, senior, was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, in 1820, and when seven years old, removed with his parents to Stark county, Ohio. He was reared to young manhood in Stark county, and there married Eliza Brumbaugh, who was born in Stark county, Ohio, in 1828. He followed farming pursuits all of his life, and died on his farm in Ohio in 1906. The mother of the subject died in 1911.

Jacob Kimmel, with whom this review is directly concerned, grew up on his father's farm in Stark county, Ohio, married there, and farmed in his home county until March of 1884. He then came to Kansas, having made a decision that this State afforded him better opportunities for amassing a competence than was afforded in the older State, in which he was born and reared. Mr. Kimmel settled in Berwick county, Nemaha county, where he bought eighty acres of unimproved land in section 24. His confidence in the ultimate success of his venture in Kansas has never been misplaced, and the passing years have witnessed his continued prosperity. Mr. Kimmel has added to his acreage in addition to placing valuable improvements on his land until he now owns 240 acres in Nemaha county, and also owns 160 acres in Woods county, Oklahoma.

Mr. Kimmel was married, in 1877, to Sarah Bishop, who has borne him five children, as follows: Fred, an insurance man whose field of endeavor is in Iowa; Mrs. Verna Bowser, a resident of Abilene, Kans.; Mrs. Emma L. Miller, Brown county, Kansas; Mrs. Florence Brougher,



living on a farm in Rock Creek township; James, at home with his parents. Mrs. Jacob Kimmel was born in Stark county, Ohio, on a neighboring farm to the old Kimmel place, the date of her birth being January 31, 1860.

Mr. Kimmel specializes in fine live stock, and is a breeder of Short-horn cattle. He is one of the progressive and enterprising farmers of his neighborhood and takes an active and influential part in township and county affairs, as befitting an enterprising citizen. He is a Republican, and has always voted the ticket of that party. Mr. Kimmel is now serving as treasurer of Berwick township. He and the members of his family are affiliated with the Dunkard religious sect. Mr. Kimmel is a loyal Kansan, and is proud of the fact that he is a citizen of a great State and county, which, for the past thirty-two years, he has assisted in up-building; when he came to Nemaha county, he had very little of this world's goods, and was a comparatively poor man; time and energy combined with good management have made him one of the well-to-do farmers of the county.

**George M. Ralston**, owner of a splendid eighty acre tract of land in Berwick township and fancier of Shorthorn cattle, is a native of the Keystone State, and has lived in Nemaha county for the past thirty-five years. He was born February 15, 1858, in Center county, Pennsylvania, and is a son of James H. and Hettie (Moist) Ralston, both of whom were born and reared in Pennsylvania, and came of old stock in that State.

James H. Ralston, his father, was born in 1831, and married Hettie Moist, who bore him nine children, of whom seven are living. George M. was the third born in the family. James Ralston migrated to Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1885, and rented land in Granada township until his death in 1893. His wife, Hettie, was born in Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, and departed this life in Miami county, Ohio, in 1873. Previous to coming to Kansas, the elder Ralston lived for some years in Miami county, Ohio, where George M. received his schooling. He became a farmer and, in 1881, came west to Nemaha county, Kansas. For some years, Mr. Ralston rented land in Granada township, carefully saved his surplus earnings, and was eventually able to invest in a fine tract of eighty acres in Berwick township, located in section 24. He made this purchase in 1908, and has erected a good barn since taking possession of the place. Many improvements have been made, which have added considerably to the attractiveness and value of the farm, and Mr. Ralston has some very fine horses and a valuable herd of Short-horn cattle.

Mr. Ralston was married in 1880 to Miss Laura J. Boak, and this marriage has been blessed with three children, as follows: Charles; John, deceased, and Maud. Mrs. Laura Ralston was born in Miami county, Ohio, May 16, 1859, and was educated in the public schools of Casstown in her native State. Charles S. Ralston, the eldest son of the

family, was born in Miami county, Ohio, March 10, 1881, and was married in 1903 to Ella E. Mishler, who was born May 16, 1886, in Nemaha county, Kansas, and is a daughter of Cyrus and Hattie (Myers) Mishler, natives of Pennsylvania, and early settlers in this county, who are now residents of Berwick township. Charles S. Ralston is the father of three children, namely: Virgil, Forrest, and Harold.

**Ephraim G. Mills**, owner of a well improved farm of 120 acres in section 24, Berwick township, is a native of the Buckeye State, and a son of parents born in Pennsylvania. He is an exemplification of the pioneer movement of the old American stock in Pennsylvania on its western march in the pathway of continuous development of the American continent, and his thirty-six years of residence in Kansas have been productive of good to himself, his family and the community, in which he resides, and where he is recognized as an industrious and upright citizen.

Mr. Mills was born on a farm in Portage county, Ohio, February 8, 1853, and is a son of William and Susan (Mishler) Mills, who were the parents of eight children, of whom the subject of this review is the second in order of birth. William Mills, the father, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in March, 1826, and migrated to Ohio, where he developed a farm, reared his family, and departed this life in 1902. Susan (Mishler) Mills, mother of Ephraim G., was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1828, and died in July, 1902. Mr. and Mrs. Mills were members of the Dunkard sect, and were upright and God fearing people, who reared their children to become good and useful men and women.

Ephraim G. Mills received a good education in Ohio, and attended the Smithville Academy in Wayne county, Ohio, where he pursued a teacher's course, and became proficient in his studies to such an extent that he was qualified to teach, but preferred farming to scholastic attainments. He farmed and worked at the trade of carpenter in his native State until his migration to Kansas in 1880. Mr. Mills located in Nemaha county, and invested his capital in land near Centralia, Kans., but, not liking his location, he traded his first land for 120 acres in Berwick township. The improvements were of a negligible quantity, when he first located on this farm, and consisted of a shed and barn, which have since been replaced by an attractive residence and good out-buildings. Mr. Mills is a fancier of good horses, and breeds and raises Shorthorn cattle for the markets, preferring the best beef producing variety to common stock—a preference which is always the hall mark of a good farmer.

Mr. Mills was married in 1887 to Miss Luella Vermillion, who has borne him two children, as follows: Gertrude, and Lee. Mrs. Mills was born March 13, 1862, in Lawrence county, Ohio, and has been a good and faithful helpmeet to her husband, while he was building a home for the future in Kansas.

The Republican party has always claimed the allegiance of Mr.

Mills, but he has contented himself with casting his vote at the polls on election day, while leaving the office seeking to his neighbors and friends. He is fraternally connected with the Knights of Pythias.

**Edward E. White**, one of the best known farmers of eastern Nemaha county, and a son of a pioneer live stock breeder of Kansas, was born on a farm in Menard county, Illinois, October 14, 1867. His parents were William S. and Matilda (Brady) White, who were the parents of five children, all of whom are living.

William S. White was born in Kentucky, in 1832, and removed with his parents to Illinois, when a boy. His parents were both descended from the old American stock, members of which have been pioneers for many years. They made a settlement in Menard county, Illinois, when the country was but sparsely settled. Here William S. White was reared and also became a Kansas pioneer, coming to Nemaha county as early as 1872. He settled in Rock Creek township, developed a fine farm and became a pioneer breeder of Shorthorn cattle. His success with Shorthorn cattle became widely known, and his fame spread to many parts of the United States. He made exhibits at many State fairs, and won many prizes at all of the fairs and live stock shows. At the New Orleans live stock show and fair in 1886 he won six-tenths of all prizes and honors awarded fine thoroughbred cattle. He became an extensive land owner in Nemaha county, and was a highly esteemed citizen, although his activities were not entirely confined to farming pursuits. He was a shareholder in the Bank of Sabetha, and was also a part owner of the merchandise firm of Walker & White. During life, he was a member of the Congregational church. His demise occurred in 1905. The mother of Edward E. White was born at Virginia, Ill., in 1837, and departed this life, October 9, 1915.

Edward E. White was six years of age when his parents settled on the prairie lands of Nemaha county. During his boyhood days, he herded cattle on the free ranges and, at the age of twenty years, he began working out by the month at a wage of \$17 per month, which called for fourteen working hours in the day. Three years later, he married and then bought eighty acres in Gilman township, which he improved and farmed for four years. In 1895, he sold out, and bought 154 acres in Berwick township in section 25. He added eighty acres to this tract, and now has a well improved and highly productive farm of 235 acres, located just south of Old Albany.

Mr. White was married, in 1892, to Lillie Swalp. Four children have been born of this marriage, namely: May, Helen, Owal, and Dora. Mrs. Lillie White was born in Maryland, September 22, 1870, and came to Kansas at the age of seventeen years. Her father was a merchant, land owner, and coal mine owner in Maryland.

Mr. White is inclined to independence in his political views, and is not allied with any political party. He is a member and deacon of the Congregational church, and is fraternally connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights and Ladies of Security.

**Bernard Huls.**—Among the younger men of Nemaha county who have made good on the farm is Bernard Huls. He comes with the second generation, those who followed the pioneers, yet the fact that his father lived in Kansas before him does not mean that Bernard has had an easy time of it. He made a success of farming by industry and the exercise of good judgment, and is one of the most substantial citizens of the county.

Bernard Huls was born April 20, 1878, in Allamakee county, Iowa. children: Mary, wife of John Koelzer, now living in Texas; Anna, wife of George Koelzer, of Kelly, Kans.; Lizzie, now Mrs. Philip Ketter, of Kelly; Bernard, the subject of this sketch; Maggie, who is Mrs. William Dick, of Seneca, Kans.

The father, Henry Huls, was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1846, and was brought to this country by his parents when only three years old. His parents settled in Illinois, where they lived for a time, but later moved to Iowa. Henry Huls came to Kansas in 1882 to set up his family on a Kansas farm of his own. He bought 160 acres of prairie land, which Bernard Huls now owns. He paid \$800 for this land, which required considerable working before it was a good farm. Henry Huls was a man who loved to work. He steadily improved his farm and increased its yield. By the time he died in 1910, his place was a model farm and his neighbors looked to it for ideas with which to improve their own farms. Mr. Huls was possessed of the German thrift and that, in a large measure, accounts for his success. Mrs. Huls died January 8, 1916, at the home of her son, Bernard, aged 68 years.

Bernard Huls, the subject of this sketch, spent his boyhood on his father's Nemaha county farm, plowing, doing chores and going to school. He attended the parochial schools at St. Benedict, and at the age of twenty-one he rented land from his father and set out to farm for himself. Mr. Huls put graded stock on his farm and takes pride in his fine animals. He has modern improvements on his place and is always on the lookout for new time-saving devices, such as gang tractor plows, operated by motor, and other modern farm machinery. Since the death of his father, Mr. Huls has owned the old home place, consisting of 200 acres, which he bought from his father's estate. Fifty acres of this he keeps in corn. Since his boyhood days he has operated a threshing outfit, beginning with an old horsepower machine, and now using a modern thresher. He was married to Ida Ketter in 1899. To this union were born seven children: William, Theresa, Anna, Leo, John, Agelbertha and Henry, all living with their parents. Mrs. Huls was born October 29, 1877, in Wisconsin, and came to Kansas when two years old with her parents, Philip and Elizabeth Ketter, who located in Nemaha county as pioneers.

Mr. Huls is a member of the Catholic church, having been brought up in that faith. He votes the Democratic ticket ordinarily, although he is always ready to cast his vote for the best man, regardless of party affiliations. Mr. Huls belongs to the Knights of Columbus and to the Farmers' Union. He is interested in public affairs and takes pride in doing his share toward the preservation of good government.





**George E. Keck**, farmer, Berwick township, is one of Nemaha county's German born citizens who has made good in his adopted land. When Mr. Keck came to this county in 1884, he was over \$100 in debt; at the present time, he owns a fine farm in Berwick township, and has become a prosperous and contented citizen, whose greater love is bestowed upon the new land, which has afforded him opportunities which have never been presented to a poor man in Germany. He is all the more thankful that he is a citizen of America, because of the fact that many of his relatives in the Fatherland are fighting for the Kaiser in the European war. Here, in America, is peace and prosperity, and a haven of refuge for the oppressed and downtrodden of all nations.

George E. Keck was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, August 26, 1866, and is a son of George J. and Catharine (Hummel) Keck, who were the parents of seven children, of whom George E. is the youngest. George J. Keck, his father, was born in 1826, and was a tiller of the soil in Germany until his death in 1893; his mother was born in 1826, and died in 1891. In his younger days, George E. Keck learned the trade of butcher, which he followed until his migration to America in 1884. He came directly to Sabetha, Kans. and, for five years, worked out as farm hand on the farms of Nemaha county. He carefully saved his earnings and, in 1894, was enabled to buy 177 acres of land in section 22 of Berwick township. This land he improved, and things were moving along nicely with him until fire destroyed his home in February of 1913. Mr. Keck at once rebuilt and replaced the old home with one much better. He has made extensive and valuable improvements on his farm, and keeps high grade Shorthorn cattle in common with many of his neighbors.

Mr. Keck has been twice married, his first marriage having occurred in 1891 with Sophia Allmandinger, who was born in Germany in July, 1869, came to Sabetha, Kans., in 1887, and departed this life in 1912, leaving five children, as follows: Marie, George E., Jr., Christie, Albert, and Dora S. Two years later, Mr. Keck made a trip to old home scenes in Germany, and married Pauline Muehlheisen, who was born in his old home neighborhood in 1867.

Mr. Keck is allied politically with the Democratic party. He and his family are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church. Mr. Keck is serving as justice of the peace of Berwick township, and is an enterprising and progressive citizen, who takes an active and abiding interest in all things American, and especially pertaining to the welfare of his home neighborhood. For a man who left Germany without a dollar, and his only belongings being an old trunk, besides being \$100 in debt, he has done remarkably well—and this great country can use a great many more adopted citizens of his caliber.

**Bert Hesseltine.**—Nearly sixty years have elapsed since the Hesseltine family made a settlement in Nemaha county. The first home of Bert Hesseltine's parents was a covered prairie schooner, which set out

on the prairie, and was the sleeping place of the pioneers until the elder Hesseltine could build a house out of native cottonwood lumber. Bert Hesseltine, a prosperous farmer of Berwick township, was born in this pioneer home, December 5, 1870, and has grown up with Nemaha county. The Hesseltine farm is located in Berwick township or rather that portion of the township, which was formerly a part of old Rock Creek township. He is a son of Jonathan and Caroline (Waits) Hesseltine, who reared a family of four sons and three daughters, as follows: Jesse, born in Marion county, Ohio, September 8, 1857, died in Nebraska, August 10, 1900; Ruby, born September 9, 1859, in Nemaha county, died September 21, 1859; Alice A., was born November 10, 1860, and died September 30, 1862; Leroy, born October 29, 1862, and is living at Forest Grove, Ore.; Freeman, was born December 7, 1864, and departed this life July 30, 1866; Louis, born January 13, 1867, is living a retired life at Sabetha; Mrs. Mary Trees, born December 13, 1868, Sabetha; Bert; Mrs. Caroline Bussard, born November 27, 1872, died December, 1903; Mrs. Minnie Mingle, born December 30, 1874. Jonathan Hesseltine was born in Clinton county, New York, December 22, 1830. When he attained young manhood, he was married in 1856 in Marion county, Ohio, and the following year, he and his bride came to Nemaha county. They settled on a homestead in old Rock Creek township, four miles north and a half mile west of Sabetha. They drove to their new location from White Cloud, Kans., in a covered wagon, which served as a shelter until Mr. Hesseltine could erect a house of three rooms built of cottonwood. After getting his ground broken and things in shape on his homestead, Mr. Hesseltine went to western Kansas to assist in quelling an Indian uprising. When the Indian troubles were over, he returned to Nemaha county and proceeded to develop his farm. As the years passed, he became a very extensive farmer. He had faith in the eventual development of Kansas and Nemaha county, and invested heavily in farm land when it was cheap, and became owner of 1,112 acres of land, which was divided among his children. He died on the old Hesseltine home place, November 19, 1892. The mother of Bert Hesseltine was born in Marion county, Ohio, December 11, 1833, and departed this life, September 24, 1898. They had the great distinction of being among the first pioneer settlers of this county.

Bert Hesseltine attended the district school of his neighborhood during his boyhood days, and when twenty-one years old, he began farming on his own account on eighty acres of rented land in section 22. He bought this tract in 1892, and lived upon it for one and a half years, after which he bought his present farm from his father's estate. He erected the barn and residence and improved the tract, and now owns 320 acres of excellent land. Mr. Hesseltine took part in many hardships when he was a boy, and recalls that he was called out at midnight to assist in fighting a prairie fire which threatened to destroy the family home. Indians were plentiful in the neighborhood, and he remembers



that one Indian, a member of a band which was trekking westward, placed his hand on the boy's head and dubbed him a "whiteheaded papoose." While his hardships were many, there were times when life was really enjoyable to a growing boy, who had the whole countryside to wander over and use as a hunting ground.

Mr. Hesseltine was married February 24, 1897, to Cora Warwick, who has borne him four children, as follows: Helen, born April 4, 1900; Esther, born June 8, 1901; Eunice, born August 21, 1904; Katherine, born May 20, 1913. Mrs. Bert Hesseltine was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, July 14, 1879, and is a daughter of Jacob and Ellen (Johnson) Warwick, who were the parents of twelve children. Jacob Warwick was born in Pennsylvania, and was an early pioneer settler in Nemaha county, Kansas, and who remained here a few years, and then returned to his old home in Pennsylvania. Later, however, he made a permanent settlement in Kansas in 1883. The Warwicks are living on a farm southwest of Bern. Mrs. Warwick is also a native of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Hesseltine is a Republican, who is well known over the county for his active and influential part in civic and political matters. He is the present township clerk of Berwick township, and also served as treasurer of the local school board.

**Harry L. Guild.**—The little city of, Bern, in Nemaha county, is a hustling and enterprising community, and as it is well known that a city is just as progressive and forward moving as its citizens, it is only natural to observe that Bern has many enterprising and self made men of affairs among whom is Harry L. Guild, cashier of the State Bank of Bern. Mr. Guild has shown his civic spirit by advocating and placing in effect public improvements during his term as mayor, and has also served his home town in various capacities, all of which have been those usually devolving upon a useful and energetic citizen who has the real welfare of his city and its people at heart.

Mr. Guild is of New England extraction, and it is a matter of interest to learn that the family of Guild was located on one farm in Vermont for two hundred years; it is easy to figure out that several generations of the family have lived in America. His father was Rufus B. Guild, born at West Halifax, Vt., in 1831, and who was educated to become a Congregational minister. Rev. Guild located in Illinois in 1860 and in 1878, came to Seneca, Kans., preaching at the Seneca church for two years, and returning to Illinois in 1881. Two years later he located at Sterling, Kans., where his demise occurred in 1888. Rev. Rufus B. Guild was a son of Calvin and Sallie (Kellogg) Guild, both of whom were natives of Vermont, and lived upon the old Guild homestead, which had been owned by different generations of Guilds for over 200 years in Windham county, Vermont. Seven children were born to Rev. Rufus B. Guild and wife, as follows: George, cashier of the Central National Bank of Topeka, and president of the Bern Bank; Harry L., subject of

this review; Fannie, wife of Rev. L. M. Laybourn, Santa Cruz, Cal.; William R., president of the First National Bank, Hiawatha, Kans.; Susan, dean of the Women's College at Waukesha, Wis.; Jessie, a teacher in the art department of the public schools at Duluth, Minn.; Roy, secretary of the Federal Council of Churches at New York City, and who was formerly a minister of the Congregational church. Mrs. Susan (Bergen) Guild, mother of the foregoing children, was born at Ottawa, Ill., August 17, 1838, and died in 1908.

Harry L. Guild was born at Galva, Ill., August 19, 1865, and was educated at Knox College, Galesburg, Ill., and Washburn College, Topeka, Kans., following which collegiate course he clerked in a store at Sterling, Kans., until 1886, after which he farmed near Sterling until 1890. He then bought a half interest in a general merchandise store, which occupied him until 1901. Following his mercantile experience, he settled on a farm in section 26, Berwick township, Nemaha county, where he and his brother engaged in breeding Hereford cattle. They sold out their holdings five years later, and Mr. Guild became cashier of the State Bank of Bern.

Mr. Guild was married in 1889 to Miss Myrtle Jones, who has borne him four children, namely: Stacy R., a teacher of medicine in the medical department of the university at Ann Arbor, Mich., and a graduate of Washburn College; Edna, at home; William H., Topeka, Kans., graduate of Washburn College; Francis, at home. Mrs. Myrtle (Jones) Guild was born at Emporia, Kans., April 2, 1868, and graduated from the State Normal College located in her home city. She was a schoolmate of William Allen White of Emporia, and taught primary grades for five years previous to her marriage. Her parents were Harry and Emma (Packard) Jones, her father having been a soldier in the Civil war. He enlisted in the Eighth Kansas infantry at Emporia, in what was known as the John A. Martin regiment. He participated in several hard fought engagements, and was wounded in battle, but no wound proving very serious, he served until the end of the war. Mr. Jones is now living a retired life at Lawton, Okla., aged seventy-two years. The mother of Mrs. Guild died in 1904. There were five children in the Jones family, of whom Mrs. Guild is the second born.

Mr. Guild is a stanch Republican who has taken a more or less active part in county politics to the end that good men be elected to administer the civic affairs of his county. He served the people of Bern as mayor, and was instrumental in having cement sidewalks and various other improvements installed during his term of office. He has also served as a member of the school board. He is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. In his younger days, Mr. Guild had a taste of hardships, and learned what hard work on a Kansas farm really was, inasmuch as he worked out as farm hand on farms near Seneca and herded cattle on the plains for a few seasons.

**William W. Driggs**, postmaster and editor of the "Gazette," Bern, Kans., was born at Pierceville, Pa., March 25, 1856, and is a son of Sherman and Romena (Myers) Driggs, who were the parents of six children, two of whom are deceased. Sherman Driggs, the father, was born near Nicholson, Pa., December 2, 1833, was reared to young manhood on a farm, and learned the trade of shoe maker, which he followed until the outbreak of the Civil war. He then joined a crew of construction men, and was in the employ of the United States Government during the four years of warfare between the North and South. After the war he engaged in saw mill work near New Milford, Pa. From here he went to New Jersey, thence to Wisconsin, and finally located in Missouri. He was engaged in railroad construction work in both New Jersey, Wisconsin and Missouri. His demise occurred at Frankfort, Mo., in 1903. The mother of William W. was born in Pennsylvania, August 30, 1834, and died in January, 1908.

When William W. Driggs was fifteen years old, he began railroad-ing at Lehigh Summit, Pa., on the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad Company as a telegraph operator. For several years he was engaged in railroad work in various capacities in eastern cities until 1881, when he moved to Wisconsin, thence to Missouri, Nebraska, and Kansas, coming to Bern as agent for the Rock Island railroad in 1905. He resigned his position with this road in 1908, and was appointed postmaster of Bern. He also established a printing office at the same time, and has a well edited and well patronized local newspaper, the Bern "Gazette," which has a circulation of over 400 subscribers in the surrounding territory and Bern.

Mr. Driggs was married, in 1876, to Martha Plotts, who was born August 11, 1855, at Washington, N. J., and is a daughter of Philip and Sarah (Schaffer) Plotts, natives of Pennsylvania and New Jersey respectively. Five children have been born to this union, as follows: Mrs. Mildred Bickford, Phillipsburg, Kans.; Maud, wife of Rev. Schlie-mann, chaplain of the Twentieth Kansas regiment during the Spanish-American war, and minister of the Baptist church; Mabel, at home with her parents; Mrs. Miriam Baker, St. Joseph, Mo.; William W., Jr., assistant postmaster and publisher.

Mr. and Mrs. Driggs are members of the Presbyterian church, and Mr. Driggs is fraternally affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His career as a railroad man was a varied and interesting one, and Mr. Driggs was employed in various general offices of different railroad offices for several years. While in Wisconsin he was in charge of railroad traffic in both freight and passenger departments in the employ of the Green Bay, Winona & St. Paul railroad. Two years prior to his employment by this road, he was master of transportation at Newton, N. J., on the Sussex railroad of New Jersey. In 1884, he went to Hannibal, Mo., and became general freight and ticket agent for the St. Louis and Hannibal Railroad Company, and left the employ of this

road in 1893. He went from Hannibal to Omaha, Neb., and was in the employ of an investment company until his removal to Bern in 1905.

**Jacob Frederick Weiss.**—Many American citizens of German birth are numbered among the really successful men of Nemaha county. Most of these citizens came to this country and settled in Nemaha county when they were very poor, and were forced to work their way upward from poverty to their present state of comfortable affluence. The Weiss brothers, Fred and Adolph, of Sabetha, Kans., are notable examples of what can be accomplished by industry, close application to business and careful economy, and each is now a well-to-do and highly respected citizen of the city which they chose as their place of abode.

Jacob Frederick Weiss, or "Fred" Weiss, as he is better known in Sabetha, was born in Wurtemberg,, Germany, August 30, 1853, and is a son of Jacob Frederick and Kathriné (Keller) Weiss, who were the parents of five children, as follows: Adolph, Sabetha; Jacob Frederick, subject of this review; George, a resident of Sabetha; Mrs. Kathrine Lamparter, on a farm in Rock Creek township. one child died in infancy. The elder Weiss was a soldier in the armies of his native land, and was employed in a paper making factory until he became a tiller of the soil in Germany. He was born in December, 1822, and died in 1904. He was twice married, his first wife being the mother of Fred Weiss and the foregoing children, and who died in 1875, at the age of fifty years. Fred Weiss learned the baker's trade in Germany, and made his home in the mountains of his native land until 1872, when he decided that his fortune was to be made in America. Accordingly, he immigrated to this country in 1872, and joined his brother, Adolph, in Sabetha. He worked out for \$13 per month and his board, during the growing and harvest seasons, and attended school in Rock Creek township during the winters. He did farm work for about four years, and then came to Sabetha, and learned the butcher's trade. In 1877, he became associated with his brother, Adolph, in the butcher and retail meat business, and the brothers operated a meat shop for fifteen years. In 1891, they engaged in the dairying and ice business, from which Fred Weiss retired in 1906. He owns considerable property in Sabetha, and is well-to-do.

Mr. Weiss was married in New York, in October, 1880, to Mary M. Allmandinger, who was born November 24, 1848, in Germany, and immigrated to America in 1880. The following children have been born of this marriage: Frieda, born August 2, 1887; Elise, born April 11, 1889.

Mr. Weiss and family are members of the German Lutheran church. He is affiliated with the Republican party, and has served on the city council of Sabetha, and filled the office of mayor of the city during his residence here. In his younger days, he was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. One of Mr. Weiss' hobbies is the keeping of bees, of which he has twenty-five hives. He has made a study of bee culture and has successfully handled them for a number of years.

**Andrew H. Nusbaum**, merchant of Bern, Kans., was born in Wells county, Indiana, February 16, 1870, and is a son of Abraham and Susan (Reisen) Nusbaum, both of whom were of German descent. Abraham Nusbaum, his father, was born in Ohio, March 2, 1845. He was reared in his native State, and was a pioneer settler of Kansas, coming to this State from his former home in Wells county, Indiana, whither he had removed after his marriage. He made one of the first settlements in Washington township, Nemaha county, and developed a fine farm west of Bern. After some years he returned to Ohio, but again returned to Kansas, and is making his home at Salina. He was twice married, his first wife being Susan Reisen, a native of Switzerland, born in 1846, and who died in April, 1902. The children of Abraham and Susan Nusbaum are as follows: Mrs. Josephine Ramsey, Bern, Kans.; Eli Nusbaum, Wichita, Kans.; Mrs. Kate Miller, Salina, Kans.; George Nusbaum, Bern; Andrew H., subject of this review; Noah, living in Bern; Alexander, Bern; Jerry, Ramona, Okla.; Mrs. Emma Ford, Salina, Kans.; Mrs. Fallena Kaufman, Horton, Kans.; Florian, Horton, Kans.

Andrew H. Nusbaum was educated in the district and the Bern public schools, which he attended for two years after completing the course of study in his home district. At twenty-one years of age, he clerked in a drug store at Bern. Following this employment, he clerked in a hardware store. In 1891, he entered the employ of I. G. Hamman, and remained in Hamman's employ until 1899, at which time he and A. H. Miller started a general merchandise store. This partnership continued until 1912, when it was dissolved by mutual consent, and Mr. Nusbaum became sole proprietor of the business. He has a large store building, 25x116 feet in dimensions, well stocked with standard goods which are kept replenished in stock to supply the demands of an ever increasing and substantial patronage. Mr. Nusbaum has prospered in his business venture, and is one of the substantial and enterprising citizens of Bern, where his business acumen and go-ahead proclivities are admired. He has a nice residence property and two business lots in Bern, in addition to his large business.

Mr. Nusbaum was married, October 5, 1893, to Miss Minnie May Custard, who has borne him one child, namely: Lela Marie, born August 1, 1897. Mrs. Nusbaum was born in Monroe county, Pennsylvania, October 26, 1871, and is a daughter of Amos and Sarah Jane (Houck) Custard, natives of Pennsylvania. Amos Custard was born in Hamilton township, Monroe county, Pennsylvania, October 28, 1833, and died at Wymore, Neb., May 30, 1908. He was married to Sarah Jane Houck in Pennsylvania, and the following children were born to this union: Mrs. Lilly Ida Lasher, Wymore, Neb.; Wesley Custard, Hinsdale, Mont.; Howard, Medford, Okla.; Mrs. Minnie May (Nusbaum); Jesse, living at Marysville, Kans. The mother of the foregoing children was born in North Hampton county, Pennsylvania, July 10, 1839.

Mr. Nusbaum is a Democrat in politics, but has little time to de-

vote to political affairs. Mrs. Nusbaum and daughter, Lela Marie, are members of the Presbyterian church.

**Jacob S. Wittwer**, assistant cashier of the Bern Bank, was born on a farm in Richardson county, Nebraska, November 29, 1875, and is a son of Jacob and Rosa (Stauffer) Wittwer, the former of whom was born in Switzerland, and after immigrating to America, settled in Richardson county, Nebraska, where he became owner of a fine farm of 320 acres, there married, and died in 1879. There were six children in the Wittwer family, five of whom are living. The senior Wittwer was fortunate or lucky in his selection of a homestead inasmuch as a vein of coal was discovered upon the Wittwer property, and mining operations were carried on for some years, the royalty from the coal production netting the family no inconsiderable sum. Mrs. Rosa Wittwer, mother of Jacob S., was born in Switzerland, in 1856, and immigrated to this country with her parents when but a child. She resides in Bern, and is well-to-do.

Jacob S. Wittwer attended the normal school of Fremont, Nebraska, and began teaching in 1894. He taught for one year, and then farmed the home place in Richardson county, Nebraska, for a year, after which he pursued a commercial course at Campbell University, Holton, Kans. He then farmed the home place again until 1899, after which he located in Bern, and became assistant cashier of the Bern Bank, of which thriving institution he is also a stockholder and director. Mr. Wittwer is associated with H. L. Guild in the real estate, loan and insurance business.

Mr. Wittwer was married in 1903 to Theodosia Lehmann, born in Washington township, Nemaha county, July 1, 1881, a daughter of John U. and Magdalena (Funkhauser) Lehmann. (See biography of John U. Lehmann in this volume). Mrs. Wittwer studied much at Campbell University, and taught music in Bern and vicinity previous to her marriage. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Wittwer, as follows: Velma, born May 31, 1904; Paul A., born June 25, 1908; John B., born May 23, 1913. The Wittwers have a handsome modern cottage residence nicely located on two acres of ground in Bern.

Mr. Wittwer is allied with the Republican party and served as clerk of Washington township, and also filled the post of city treasurer until 1915. He is now a member of the city council of Bern. He and Mrs. Wittwer are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church, and Mr. Wittwer is treasurer of the church organization. He is affiliated fraternally with the Knights of Pythias, and is the present master of finance of the local lodge of Pythians.

**John Roth.**—The late John Roth of Bern, Kans., was born at Bushelbasin, N. Y., April 4, 1860, and was a son of Leonard Roth, who was a German by birth, who lost his life by the accidental discharge of a gun he was cleaning. John Roth came to Washington township and Nemaha county, in 1870, in company with his mother and stepfather. His mother was Elizabeth Amreihn before her marriage with John

Roth, the elder, and after Mr. Roth's death, she married a Mr. Stauffer. John Roth, subject of this review, remained at home until he became of age, and then went to Nebraska, where he farmed for eighteen years. Upon his return to Nemaha county in 1898, he bought land in section 15, Washington township, and made extensive improvements thereon. At the time of his demise May 27, 1912, he owned 237 acres. His untimely death was caused by a colt running away and which became frightened at an approaching auto, and dragged Mr. Roth for over a mile. Mr. Roth died from the severe injuries which he received as a result of the accident.

John Roth was married in 1896 to Mary E. Gugelman. The following children were born of this marriage, namely: Mae, born July 19, 1897, a student at the Emporia Normal School, Emporia, Kans.; Leonard, born July 14, 1907. The Roth family left the farm in 1909, and moved to a comfortable home in Bern. Mrs. Roth owns the home farm as well as eight lots and three acres of ground in Bern. She was born June 2, 1874, on a farm two miles north of Bern and is a daughter of Samuel and Susannah (Frogg) Gugelman, natives of Switzerland. Samuel Gugelman, her father, was born March 19, 1829, and emigrated from his native land to America in 1866. His first work was in a stone quarry in his native country, but after coming to this country, he worked as farm hand near Rulo, Neb., for four years. He then bought a farm in section 3, Washington township. He developed his farm and reared a family of four children, and died in 1899. The children of the Gugelman family are as follows: Emeline, died in infancy; Charles, Paradise, Kans.; Otto, a farmer, Bern, Kans.; Sarah, wife of L. A. Branson, Hollyroot, Kans. The Roth family are members of the Evangelical church.

John Roth was an industrious, enterprising and honest citizen whose capabilities were such as to enable him to rise from an humble position to become well-to-do before his untimely death. He was a kind husband and parent, whose memory is revered and kept green by his widow and children. The man who provides for his loved ones and makes such provisions that they shall not want, but be able to live in comfort after his departure from the earthly realm to the bourne from which no man ever returns is a man well worth while, and it is meet that his biography and the story of his accomplishments be written in this history of the county where he made his achievements noticeable.

**Adolph Weiss.**—Two things make the life story of Adolph Weiss interesting and offer opportunity to bestow well merited praise. The fact that he came to Sabetha a poor man and won his way to a considerable competence is the first point to consider in writing a review of his life. The second and really the most meritorious from another viewpoint is the fact that he has reared a fine family, and given each child every advantage of securing a good education—not content with sending his children to the local schools, he has sent them to the higher seats of learning—and as a result, is proud of them.



Adolph Weiss was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, December 19, 1850, and is a son of Jacob Frederick and Kathrine (Keller) Weiss, who were the parents of five children. (See sketch of Fred Weiss.)

Adolph Weiss learned the trade of cabinet maker in his native land, and worked at his trade until 1870. He emigrated from the Fatherland to America in that year, and came directly to Sabetha, where he worked out as a farm hand at \$15.00 per month for a few years. In 1872 he was joined by his brother, Fred, and the two brothers engaged in the butcher and retail meat business in Sabetha in 1877. They were highly successful in their business venture and also operated an ice plant in connection with the meat business. The firm prospered and some years ago Mr. Weiss decided to retire and take life easy. By good business management and careful husbanding of his resources, he has accumulated a fair-sized competence; owns city property in Sabetha and has a twelve-acre tract of land in the west part of the city.

Mr. Weiss was married in 1879 to Rosa Gossman, born in February, 1860, in Mendocino county, California, and died December 19, 1914. She was a daughter of John and Verna Gossman, natives of Switzerland, who settled at Highland, Ill., after immigrating to this country in an early day, and who crossed the plains and mountains to the gold fields of California during the great rush of 1849. The entire family drove through with ox teams and settled in the Anderson valley of California, where the parents lived and died.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Weiss, as follows: Dr. Albert J., a graduate of Sabetha High School and Kansas University, now a practicing physician at Barnes, Kans.; Kathrine, a graduate of Sabetha High School. Kathrine was in the employ of the Bell Telephone Company as operator for ten years, and was engaged for two years in the employ of the Sabetha Company; Mrs. Bertha Kritzer, of Leona, Kans. a graduate of Sabetha High School, and who studied art at Kansas University; Arnold, deceased; Louise, graduate of Sabetha High School, and a trained nurse in Ensworth Hospital at St. Joseph, Mo.

Mr. Weiss and all members of his family belong to the Congregational Church of Sabetha. He is allied with the Republican party and has served as a member of the Sabetha town council. He is a stockholder and a director of the National Bank of Sabetha, Kans. He is an excellent type of the sturdy American citizen of German birth, who came to this country a poor man and has risen to become one of the substantial and well respected citizens of his adopted city.

**George E. Hollister.**—The Hollister family is one of the pioneer families of Nemaha county and is likewise one of the oldest families in America, which traces its beginning to the Mayflower, when the first ancestor of George E. Hollister, concerning whom this review is written, came to America and landed with the Pilgrim Fathers on the bleak and ice bound coast of New England. George E. Hollister, manager of the Mutual Telephone Company of Sabetha, is one of Nemaha county's suc-



cessful citizens and was born on a farm in Winnisheik county, Iowa, January 24, 1863. He is a son of Elisha and Mary (Edwards) Hollister, who were the parents of five children, four of whom are living, George E. Hollister, of Sabetha, being the third oldest in order of birth.

Elisha Hollister, his father, was born at South Glassenberry, Conn., in 1839, and was a son of Horace Hollister, a tiller of the soil in Connecticut, and a descendant of one of the Pilgrim Fathers, who emigrated from England in 1620 and founded the town of Plymouth, Mass. Mr. Hollister migrated westward to Iowa as early as 1859, and became a pioneer settler in Winnisheik county, Iowa, and resided there and in Jones county, Iowa, until his removal to Kansas. In 1881, he made his first trip to Kansas and drove across the country for the purpose of viewing the land and deciding upon a permanent place to locate his family. His first trip decided him and he was so greatly taken with the appearance of the rich country south of Sabetha that he determined to invest in land and make a home for himself in Capioma township, Nemaha county. He returned home, disposed of his land holdings in Iowa and moved his family and movable belongings to the new location in Capioma township. He purchased 480 acres in section 9 of that township and erected a home thereon. He made rather extensive improvements on his farm and engaged in the breeding of Durham cattle with considerable success. Mr. Hollister took and active and influential part in Republican politics and was one of the leaders of his party in the county. He held the office of justice of the peace and also served the people as township trustee. He became well-to-do and was a stockholder of the National Bank of Sabetha. Elisha Hollister departed this life in 1898. His wife, Mrs. Mary (Edwards) Hollister, was born in 1841, and died in 1871. After her demise Mr. Hollister was again married and five children were born of this second marriage.

George E. Hollister received his early education in the public schools of Jones county, Iowa, and accompanied his father to Kansas in 1883. Soon after coming to Nemaha county, he bought eighty acres of land in Capioma township, built a residence, 14x20 feet in dimensions, and made other improvements on his place from time to time as he was able, and eventually developed a well improved farm. He added to his acreage until he owns a tract embracing 240 acres. Mr. Hollister cultivated his farm until his removal to a home in Sabetha in 1912. He did not retire from active business, however, but became interested in the telephone business and assumed the managership of the Sabetha Mutual Telephone Company. The affairs of the telephone company are in capable hands and Mr. Hollister manages the company's business just as carefully as he looks after his farming interests.

Mr. Hollister was married July 24, 1888, to Miss Belle Conrad, born September 2, 1869, in Capioma township, and a daughter of George W. and Lurania (Rawson) Conrad, whose biographies are given in this volume in connection with those of Drs. George R. and Burt Conrad. Mr. and Mrs. Hollister are the parents of three children, as follows:

Eldon E., farming the Hollister home place; Leland L. and Mildred M., a graduate of the Sabetha High School.

Mr. and Mrs. Hollister are members of the Congregational Church and contribute of their means to the support of this denomination. Mr. Hollister is an independent in politics and votes as his mind and conscience dictate, irrespective of political creeds. He served as trustee of Capioma township while a resident there, and has always taken an active part in civic matters during his residence in Nemaha county.

**Harry G. Whittle**, merchant, Bern, Kans., was born in the city of Baltimore, Md., September 2, 1865. He is a son of Jeremiah and Aline (Monroe) Whittle, who reared a family of eleven children. Jeremiah Whittle, the father, was also born in Baltimore, March 29, 1824, became a carpenter and worked at his trade during his entire matured life. He died in the town of Sharon, Md., in 1903. The Whittle family is of English descent and several generations of this family have lived in America. Mrs. Aline (Monroe) Whittle was born in Baltimore, in June, 1827, and died in 1905. She was descended from an old English family.

Harry G. Whittle received his early education in the public schools of his native city, attended a commercial school in Baltimore and became an expert draughtsman and designer. He held a position as designer for a large carpet firm in Baltimore for some years, and was also employed as salesman by his firm for eleven years. February 21, 1901, he located at Palmer, Washington county, Kansas, bought a farm in the neighborhood and cultivated it for five years. He sold his farm April 17, 1906, and engaged in partnership with O. A. Fowler, general merchant of Bern. This partnership was a profitable one and the firm carried a stock of goods valued at from \$7,000 to \$8,000. Eventually, Mr. Fowler sold out his interest to Mr. Schick, and some time later Mr. Whittle's father-in-law bought a half interest in the store and held it until his demise. Mr. Whittle then bought his father-in-law's interest in the estate and has built up the business to considerable proportions and now carries a large stock of goods exceeding \$12,000 in value.

Mr. Whittle was married February 21, 1901, to Florence Creager, and this union has been blessed with two children, as follows: Elizabeth, born in 1904; Gilmore, born in 1907. Mrs. Florence Whittle was born September 7, 1875, at Boscobel, Wis., and is a daughter of Jacob and Sophia (Rindlaub) Creager, the former of whom was born in Baltimore, Md., August 31, 1837. The elder Creager became a millwright by avocation, and removed with his family to Washington county, Kansas, in 1878, and there engaged in farming until his death, March 12, 1912. Mrs. Whittle's mother was born at Gettysburg, Pa., in 1840, and makes her home at Palmer, Kans. Mrs. Whittle was educated in the high school at Clay Center, Kans., and taught school in the neighborhood of Clay Center prior to her marriage.

Mr. Whittle is a Democrat in politics. He and Mrs. Whittle are members of the Presbyterian Church, and contribute of their means to the support of this religious denomination. Mr. Whittle is affiliated

with the Modern Woodmen of America, the Knights of Pythias and the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He is a Knight Templar and commander of the local Knights Templar organization. Mrs. Whittle is a member of the Bern Reading Club, and is affiliated with the Knights and Ladies of Security. She is an active worker in the Presbyterian Missionary Society.

**John Ehrsam.**—People of Swiss birth or descent predominate in the rich farming section in the vicinity of Bern, Kans. This is fortunate for the country and county of Nemaha, inasmuch as no better class of American citizens by adoption or descent are found than those who hail from or whose parents came from this thrifty country hemmed in by great mountain ranges and who have been lovers of freedom and progress for many years. John Ehrsam, retired farmer and large landed proprietor of Bern, is a son of Swiss immigrants, who came to America and made good in the land of their adoption. Mr. Ehrsam was born in Dubuque county, Iowa, June 15, 1861, and is a son of Jacob and Barbara (Frey) Ehrsam, natives of Switzerland.

Jacob Ehrsam was born in Zurich, Switzerland, December 6, 1832, and immigrated to America in 1854, first locating at St. Louis, Mo., where he remained for awhile, then located in Iowa. He was married at Dubuque, Iowa, to Barbara Frey in 1860. Ten years later, in 1870, he migrated to Kansas and bought a quarter section of land in section 30, Washington township, and made his home thereon until 1890. Death claimed him, April 12, 1916. He became the owner of 800 acres of land, which he divided among his children. There were seven children born to Jacob and Barbara (Frey) Ehrsam, as follows: John, with whom this review is directly concerned; Louisa, deceased; Henry and Albert, farming in Washington township; Jacob, deceased; William and Edward, farmers in Washington township. The mother of the foregoing children was born at Engstringen, canton of Zurich, Switzerland, April 20, 1833, and died at Bern, Kans., November 14, 1898. She came to America with her mother in 1858. After the demise of the first Mrs. Ehrsam, Jacob married Anna B. Gerber.

John Ehrsam was eight years of age when the family located in Nemaha county. He assisted his parents in the farm work until he was twenty-five years old, and then rented land from his father, which he cultivated in addition to operating a threshing outfit for eleven years. His father eventually deeded him 160 acres of land, located in section 30, Washington township, as his share of the estate. He improved this quarter and added to his possessions until he now owns 560 acres of good land, which he is constantly improving and making better and more productive each year of his ownership. Mr. Ehrsam removed to Bern in February of 1908, and resides in a handsome modern residence. He oversees his farming operations from his town home and still takes an active interest in everything pertaining to the upkeep and management of his large estate.

Mr. Ehrsam was married in 1886 to Bertha Maurer. Their children are as follows: Robert B., George and Lillian. Robert B. Ehrsam was born November 3, 1887. After completing the common school work, he entered Central Business College at Kansas City, Mo., and graduated therefrom in May, 1907. In June, 1907, he engaged in the implement business in partnership with his father and brother, George A., at Bern, but George A. took a dislike to the business, and preferring to handle live stock, he returned to the farm, where he remained. Robert B. disposed of his business in December, 1909, and in January, 1910, he began work as a traveling salesman for the International Harvester Company, covering northeast Kansas and southeastern Nebraska. He was rapidly promoted, and so great was the trust and confidence imposed in him that he rose from the position of salesman to blockman within two years. At the end of the third year he was given the assistant managership of the company's business in Russia, at a large salary. He sailed for Russia, October 26, 1912, and within a year's time had learned the language so well that he dispensed with the services of his interpreter and did a splendid business in the agricultural sections of Russia, where of late years vast quantities of American agricultural machinery have been placed in use. On November 16, 1915, he was operated on for appendicitis; death came as a result of his illness and operation, and he was laid away to rest December 3, 1915, at Charkoff, Russia. War conditions in Europe prevented the bringing of the body to America, as his parents and relatives wished. Robert B. Ehrsam was a young man of great ability and promise, and was one of the vanguard of enterprising young men who have done much to advance the commercial interests of America in European lands. He was imbued with the spirit of American enterprise and push which knows no limitations, and he was willing to give his services in behalf of his employers at any and all times with a loyalty and strength shown by but few men.

George A. Ehrsam was born November 20, 1888; received a common school education in district 64, and is now living on his farm, four miles northeast of Bern. He was married to Sara Krainbill in 1911.

Lillian Ehrsam was born May 10, 1890; graduated from the Bern High School in 1906; clerked in the Whittle & Creager store at Bern for two years and a half and was married to E. C. Harter in 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Harter are living on the Ehrsam home place with their two bright children, Clifford J. and Howard L.

Mrs. Bertha (Maurer) Ehrsam was born in Woodford county, Illinois, September 10, 1866, and is a daughter of Jacob and Christena (Weiser) Maurer, natives of Switzerland, and who immigrated to Illinois in 1865, thence to Nebraska in 1872. After farming for some years, Mr. Maurer located at Seward, Neb., and died at Lincoln, Neb., March 7, 1908, at the age of sixty-nine years. His wife, Christena, was born March 5, 1835, and died June 16, 1903. They were the parents of ten children, of whom Mrs. Ehrsam was the second child born.

Mr. Ehrsam is an independent voter and is not allied with any po-

litical party or creed. He and the members of his family worship at the Evangelical Church. He is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America.

**Jonathan Reinhart**, farmer of Washington township, was born on the farm which he is now cultivating, September 3, 1888. He is a son of Jacob and Catharine (Reisen) Reinhart, for whose biography the reader is referred to another part of this volume of history. Mr. Reinhart was reared on his father's farm and attended the public schools of Bern. For a period of nine months he worked as farm hand, and upon his father's retirement to a home in Sabetha, Kans., the young man took charge of the home place near Bern in 1910. He is renting a quarter section of land from his father, and this tract is well stocked and well cared for, yielding good returns from this assiduous industry and careful management.

Mr. Reinhart was married in 1910 to Florence Aumiller, who was born at Phillipsburg, Kans., December 9, 1886, and died without issue, March 13, 1913. Mr. Reinhart was again married in 1914 to Shirley Aumiller, a sister of his first wife, who was born October 23, 1891, at Morrill, Brown county, Kansas, a daughter of Ephraim and Sarah (Basket) Aumiller, who were the parents of nine children, seven of whom are living. Ephraim Aumiller was born in Ohio in 1851, and his wife was born in 1863. The Aumillers make their home in Brown county. Mr. Reinhart is an independent in his political views and prefers to form his own opinions regarding party politics and merits of opposing candidates as to their fitness for the office sought at election time.

**Jacob H. Hoffman**, farmer and stockman, Washington township, was born October 20, 1861, in Allen county, Ohio. He is a son of Henry and Magdalena (Good) Hoffman, who reared a family of four sons and two daughters, Jacob H. being the second born of the family. Henry Hoffman, his father, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, of Pennsylvania German stock, August 15, 1828, and migrated to Allen county, Ohio, when a young man. In 1864, he immigrated to Page county, Iowa, and became owner of a fine farm in that county where he died December 23, 1905. The mother of Jacob H. Hoffman was born July 28, 1838, in Mercer county, Ohio, and died July 23, 1906. Both parents were Mennonites.

Jacob H. Hoffman, subject of this review, was reared to young manhood on the farm in Iowa, and attended the district school of his neighborhood. He determined to come West in search of better opportunities than were afforded by his home county, and in 1886, he immigrated to Kansas. After a year spent in western Kansas, he came to Nemaha county and bought 120 acres in section 15, Washington township. He has improved this tract considerably with good buildings, trees and shrubbery, and has prospered during his thirty years of residence in this county. Mr. Hoffman specializes in O. I. C. or Chester White hogs, and has made a success in the raising of this breed of swine for the markets.

Mr. Hoffman was married October 16, 1890, to Irene Cox, who was born in Pulaski county, Indiana, August 14, 1864, and died October 17, 1907.

Mr. Hoffman cast his first vote, after attaining his majority, for Grover Cleveland, but is now a pronounced Republican. He was elected to the office of township treasurer in 1914, and is now capably filling that position, to the satisfaction of his fellow citizens. He is a candidate for re-election to this office.

**Benjamin F. Ford.**—The Ford family in Nemaha county is one of the old pioneer families of Kansas, and the first settlement in the county by a member of this family was made as early as 1868. Since that time the founder of the family fortunes in Kansas, Joseph Ford, and his progeny, have taken an active part in the affairs of Nemaha county and have contributed in no small way toward the building up of a great and rich county. Benjamin F. Ford, subject of this review and owner of 240 acres of farm land in Adams township, is a son of Joseph and Sarah E. (Hunt) Ford.

Rev. Joseph Ford, the father, was born January 6, 1847, in Ohio. He was reared on a farm in the Buckeye State and began for himself at the age of twenty years. Until 1867 he did all kinds of hard farm labor in his native locality, such as grubbing, ditching and breaking land for cultivation. In 1867 he made his first trip to Kansas and investigated the prospects in the newer country with a view toward eventually making a settlement in the State. He remained but a few months on his first trip and returned in 1868, and bought eighty acres in Adams township. This tract was only partly improved, with a small house and a small clearing in cultivation. He settled thereon and made the place his home until 1908, at which time he moved to Seneca and bought a residence in the city and rented out his large farm of 520 acres. For many years he has devoted his time and talents to the ministry and preaches in the interest of the Primitive Baptist church denomination. Since the death of his wife in 1913, he has traveled about over the country considerably. Rev. Joseph Ford was married August 16, 1868, to Sarah Elizabeth Hunt, born in Ohio in 1848, and died June 21, 1913. Five children were born of this marriage, as follows: Benjamin, subject of this review; Mrs. Clara Knauer, former teacher, and living on a farm in Indiana; Mrs. Edith Courter, residing in Wetmore; Mrs. Lulu Richard, Seneca, wife of a minister of the gospel, and Mason, cultivating the home place.

Rev. Joseph Ford was a son of Jonathan G. Ford, born in Warren county, Ohio, April 28, 1823, and was married February 12, 1846, to Marinda Hicks, born in Warren county, Ohio, October 21, 1825. Jonathan G. Ford was a son of Joseph Ford, Sr., born in Delaware, March 2, 1797. He moved to Ohio with his parents in 1808. Joseph Ford, Sr., married Phoebe Kibbey, who was born in 1800. He died September 25, 1845, and Phoebe Ford died April 22, 1856.

Benjamin F. Ford was born November 29, 1869, in Nemaha county.



BENJAMIN F. FORD.



MRS. BENJAMIN F. FORD.





and was reared on a farm located about one-quarter of a mile from his present home place. He received a district school education and remained with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age. At this time he bought eighty acres of land and worked out until he was twenty-five years old, and then rented 160 acres of the home farm for one year. For five years he rented his father's large farm, consisting of nearly an entire section of land, and at the expiration of this period he bought 160 acres from his father, which adjoined his first eighty. This tract has been his home place since that time and is well improved. In 1909, Mr. Ford erected a large, modern eight-room residence, equipped with running water, bath, lighting system, furnace heat, and which is elaborately furnished and one of the finest farm residences in Nemaha county. Mr. Ford specializes in Poland China swine and Durham cattle, of which fine breed he has seventy or more head at the present time.

Mr. Ford was married January 1, 1895, to Miss Osa Hayden, who has borne him three children, as follows: Asa and Gladys, students in the Seneca High School, and one child who died in infancy. Mrs. Osa (Hayden) Ford is a daughter of R. J. and Sarah (Terhune) Hayden, of Indiana. R. J. Hayden, her father, was born in Indiana in 1842 and enlisted for service in the Union army in 1861. He served for three years during the Civil war in defense of the Union and was so badly wounded that he was disabled and honorably discharged because of disability. In 1870 he immigrated to Harrison county, Missouri, and lived there for nine years. In 1879 he moved to Jewell county, Kansas, and farmed in that county for two years, following which he took up a homestead in Rawlins county, but was forced to relinquish his claim because of continued droughts. He then came to Nemaha county and farmed for fifteen years, and went from here to Graham county and bought 160 acres, to which he later added 240 acres, which he farmed for three years longer, then sold his land and retired to a home at Waterville, Minn. He is a member of the United Brethren church and a Republican in politics. R. J. Hayden and Sarah Terhune were married April 6, 1870, and are the parents of seven children, as follows: Osa, wife of Benjamin F. Ford; Albert, a farmer in Adams township, and has five children; Mrs. Bertha Pugh, lives in Texas and has one child; George, an engineer living in Minnesota; Edgar, located in Washington, and one died in infancy. Mrs. Sarah Hayden was born in Indiana in 1848. Mrs. Osa (Hayden) Ford was born in Missouri, February 28, 1871, and was reared on a farm, receiving a district school education. When she attained the age of nineteen years she began working as domestic, attending school in winter and worked intermittently until her marriage with Mr. Ford.

Mr. and Mrs. Ford are members of the Christian church and take an active part in the affairs of this denomination, of which Mr. Ford is a deacon. He is independent in his political views and casts his vote for the man best suited in his estimation to fill the office regardless of political parties or creeds. He is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen



RESIDENCE OF BENJAMIN F. FORD.

of America. The review of the life of Mr. and Mrs. Ford shows conclusively that they have attained to their present state of affluence and comfort mainly through their own combined efforts and can truthfully say that hard work, economical living and self-denial in the early days of their wedded life have enabled them to accumulate a substantial holding of Kansas land. The Fords are well respected and popular among their neighbors and have many friends.

**Frank Andrews**, farmer and stockman of Washington township, was born October 4, 1860, in Summit county, Ohio, and is a son of Daniel and Fannie (Werster) Andrews, who were the parents of six children, of whom Frank was the third in order of age. Daniel Andrews was born in Northampton, Pa., and became a carpenter and immigrated to Ohio in 1847. After following his trade in Summit county, Ohio, for some years, he became the owner of a farm not far from the city of Akron. When old age came upon him he retired to a home in Akron, where he died in 1907, at the age of seventy-eight years. His wife, Fannie, was born in Berlin, Germany, in 1828, and immigrated to America when fourteen years old. She and Daniel Andrews were married in 1854. On the maternal side the ancestors of Frank Andrews

were adherents of the German Lutheran faith; on the paternal side they were of the German Reformed faith.

Frank Andrews attended the same district school which another Nemaha county man, J. O. Kimmel, attended in Ohio. When he attained the age of fifteen years he began working as farm hand at \$10 per month. Under his father's instruction he learned the trade of carpenter and followed this trade for three years. Mr. Andrews came West in 1886, and was employed on the construction work of the Chicago & Rock Island railway, which was then being built through Nemaha county. He was thus employed for two years and in the meantime became acquainted with the country, and was much impressed with the farming possibilities of the land in Berwick township. He accordingly rented a tract of land in this township for two years, and then, with his savings invested in eighty acres in section 20, of Berwick township. After improving this farm he sold it in 1902 and invested the proceeds in 173 acres in section 10, Washington township, which has thirty-eight acres of natural timber. Mr. Andrews keeps high grade live stock on his place and is a progressive and enterprising farmer with that go-ahead spirit of endeavor which makes for the successful individual.

He was married May 28, 1890, to Adelaide German, and this marriage has been blessed with children as follows: Mrs. Ada Stephens, Kansas City, Kans.; Mrs. Edith Slack, living on a farm near Bern; Roy A., Paul and Daniel, farming in Nebraska; Lee, Ruth, Franklin, Clarence, Ivan and Esther, at home with their parents.

Mrs. Adelaide (German) Andrews was born in Fannin county, Georgia, April 26, 1869, and is a daughter of John and Lydia (Cox) German, natives of the Southland. John German, her father, was born in 1831, and came to a lamentable death from Indian savagery on the Kansas plains in 1874. He left his old home in Georgia with his family and all of his possessions in the spring of 1870, and set out for the Far West via the ox wagon route in search of a homestead. His family consisted of his wife and six daughters and a son. The destination of the family was some point in Colorado, where Mr. German expected to find a homestead and locate permanently. When the outfit was passing through Logan county, Kansas, they were set upon by a band of nineteen Indians near Monument Station, on the Smoky Hill river, and Mr. German, his wife and two of the girls and a son were killed by the blood-thirsty savages, who, by some miracle of freakish impulse, spared the present Mrs. Andrews, at that time only five years of age, and three sisters, the oldest of whom was seventeen years of age. The mother of Mrs. Andrews was forty-four years old at the time of her lamentable death. The Indians took the children captives, and after keeping them with them for two weeks turned the two youngest adrift on the plains to subsist as they might. Soldiers came after the massacre and buried the bodies of the parents and murdered children. For six long and weary weeks the helpless children were left on the plains to subsist as they

might. At the time of the massacre of her parents, Mrs. Andrews was crying and an Indian was ready to kill her also, but a squaw intervened and saved her life. This squaw protected her and her sisters during their captivity. During the six weeks in which the two German children were alone on the prairies they lived on hackberries and grapes, eked out by scraps picked up from the camps of soldiers. They even pulled up grass and ate the tender parts of the roots. At the end of six weeks they were again picked up and made captives by a band of roving Indians, but were rescued by a company of soldiers. Mrs. Andrews and her sister, Julia, were sent to Fort Leavenworth and a home was given them by Patrick Corney until they were thirteen years of age. Afterward they made their home with older sisters. Two sisters older than Mrs. Andrews are now living in California, namely: Mrs. Amos Swerdfeger and Mrs. J. A. Brooks.

Mrs. Andrews is a graduate of Sabetha High School, class of 1887. She also spent two years at Kansas State University.

Mr. Andrews is a Democrat in politics and has generally taken an active and influential part in political and civic matters. He has served as justice of the peace in both Berwick and Washington townships, and has also filled the post of constable of Berwick township. He is a member of the Farmers Union and Ancient Order of United Workmen of Bern.

**Earl C. Spring** is one of the younger farmers of Washington township, and was born on the farm which he is now managing. He is a son of Charles Frederick and Mary (Koester) Spring, to whom the following children were born: Earl C., the subject of this review; Gladys, born February 3, 1895; Elvin, born January 1, 1899, and died February 3, 1901; Glenn, born November 8, 1900, and Clyde, born January 22, 1902. Charles Frederick Spring was born on a farm near Bern, Kans., August 10, 1865, and is a son of Jacob and Susan (Wittmer) Spring, the former of whom was born in Switzerland in 1817, and died at Bern, Kans., in 1897; the latter of whom was born in Switzerland in 1824, and died in Portland, Ore., in 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Spring emigrated from Switzerland to America in 1854, and in 1858 they homesteaded a tract of land in Washington township, Nemaha county, Kansas. This was in the early pioneer days of the settlement of Kansas and Indians were numerous in the vicinity of their early home. No trouble was ever anticipated with the red men, however, as Mr. and Mrs. Spring treated their red neighbors kindly. To Jacob and Susan Spring were born the following children: John, living at Colorado Springs, Colo.; Mrs. Kate Lehmann, Portland, Ore.; Gottlieb, Cheyenne, Wyo.; Jacob, Bern, Kans.; Charles Frederick, now living at Manhattan, Kans.

Charles F. Spring was reared on the old Spring homestead in Washington township and cultivated his farm successfully until 1915. He then moved to a home at Manhattan, Kans., for the express purpose of educating his children at the splendid State university maintained by the

State at Manhattan. He owns 249 acres of land, which are in splendid producing shape and are well improved. Mr. Spring is erecting a residence at Manhattan Kans., and will make his future home in that city. His wife, Mary (Koester) Spring, was born on a farm near DuBois, in Pawnee county, Nebraska, March 15, 1872, and is a daughter of Frederick (born in Hanover, Germany, January 29, 1819, immigrated to America and died at DuBois, Neb., June 4, 1899), and Mary (Stoke) Koester (born in Germany, November 8, 1832, and died at Bern, Kans., March 18, 1908). Their children were as follows: Mrs. Will Kauffman, Seneca, Kans.; Mrs. Charles Spring, Manhattan, Kans.; Mrs. Henry Koester, Mrs. William Koester, Mrs. Minnie Meier, of DuBois, Neb. Charles F. Spring and Mary Koester were married at DuBois, Neb., October 5, 1892.

Charles F. Spring has generally voted the Republican ticket, and has filled various local offices in Washington township, such as clerk of Eagle Star district school board for twenty-nine years, and also served as justice of the peace. He became a member of the Presbyterian Church when thirty-four years old, and Mrs. Spring became a member of that denomination when sixteen years of age. Mr. Spring is a member of the Knights of Pythias, and has filled all offices in the Bern lodge of Pythians, and is a past chancellor commander.

Earl C. Spring was born September 28, 1893, and has always lived on the Spring homestead and, of late years, has had entire charge of his father's farm. He was married August 4, 1915, to Miss Esther Bearg at Sabetha, Kans. Mrs. Earl Spring was born in David City, Neb., December 19, 1895, and was educated at the Sabetha High School. She prepared herself for the teaching profession by attending the Kansas State Normal at Emporia, and taught the school in district 32, the home district of the Spring family. Mr. Spring is an independent Republican, and is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen lodge of Bern, Kans. He and Mrs. Spring are members of the Presbyterian church.

**George W. Meisner**, farmer, Washington township, was born on a farm located on section 31, Berwick township, May 21, 1876, and is a son of Jacob and Susan (Blair) Meisner, whose biographies are written in the sketch of John Meisner, brother of George W. Mr. Meisner was reared on the home farm of the Meisner family in Berwick township, and received his education in the district school of his home neighborhood. He remained at home and assisted his father in the cultivation of the home farm until he became of age, then began to make his own way. He rented land from his father and farmed it for six years. He was then enabled to make a purchase of eighty acres in section 22, Washington township. For the past thirteen years, Mr. Meisner has owned his farm, and has spent several hundred dollars on improvements. His home cost him \$1,000 to build, exclusive of his own labor, and he built an addition to the barn, erected a granary and an auto shed. Mr. Meisner raises wheat, oats and corn on his land, and keeps

good graded live stock. He has increased his land holdings to a total of 180 acres, and also owns a half interest in a good farm of 157 acres in Rock Creek township, which his father deeded to him and his brother, Jacob, and which is located in section 6 of that township.

Mr. Meisner was married in 1897 to Miss Mattie Frye and two children have blessed this union, as follows: The first born died in infancy; Florence, a graduate of the district school and now a student in the Bern High School, born April 5, 1902. Mrs. Mattie (Frye) Meisner was born November 8, 1876, in Switzerland, and is a daughter of John and Matilda Frye, who were the parents of seven children. Mrs. Meisner left her native land, and immigrated to America in 1892. She made her home prior to her marriage in Nemaha county with her sister, Mrs. Feldman.

The Republican party has always had the allegiance of Mr. Meisner, and he has filled the post of road overseer in his township. He and Mrs. Meisner attend the Evangelical church. Mr. Meisner is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America.

**Frederick N. Bieri** is one of the younger successful farmers of Washington township, who has made good in the oldest of avocations. It is good to see the young men of the present day take up the industries followed by their parents, and Mr. Bieri believes that tilling of the soil holds out the best returns to the young men at the present time. Mr. Bieri was born on a farm near Middlebury, Neb., May 6, 1885, and is a son of Nicholas and Anna (Marthaler) Bieri. He is the eldest of nine children born to his parents, all of whom are living. Nicholas Bieri was born in Switzerland in 1848, and emigrated from his native land to America when eighteen years old. He made his first settlement in Tazewell county, Illinois, where he worked as farm laborer for several years, prior to locating in Kansas in 1871. His first settlement was in Washington township, Nemaha county, where he bought forty acres in section 26, tilled this tract until 1882, and then moved to Richardson county, Nebraska. He remained on his farm in Nebraska until 1887, and then returned to Washington township, this county, and invested in 195 acres of land, which he has managed to improve considerably, and which is his present home in Nemaha county. The mother of Frederick Bieri was born in Switzerland, July 4, 1859, and left her native land and came to America in 1883. She first lived at Marysville, Kans., and was married to the senior Bieri shortly after her arrival in Kansas.

Frederick Bieri, the subject of this review, attended school in district 30, and when twenty-one years of age, was paid wages by his father for assisting him cultivate the home acreage. When he was twenty-three years old, he rented land in Gilman township in partnership with his brother, Peter. He rented land until 1913, and then invested his carefully hoarded savings in a tract of 120 acres in section 17, Washington township. The farm was formerly owned by his father,

and had no improvements whatever upon it when Mr. Bieri became the owner. He erected a seven room modern farm residence, painted white, and built a barn 28x52 feet, painted red, and also erected a silo and an up-to-date chicken house. In fact, this young farmer has one of the most attractive, neat and progressive appearing farms in his neighborhood. He specializes in White Leghorn chickens and Hampshire hogs, and breeding of fine live stock. He has a nice growing orchard on the place and shrubbery, which as the years pass, will beautify the surroundings.

Mr. Bieri was married to Lillian M. Stoldt, December 28, 1910. They have one child, namely: Florence, born July 6, 1914. Mrs. Bieri was born December 25, 1892, on a farm in Washington township, and is a daughter of Frank and Augustine Stoldt. Mr Bieri is a Republican in politics, and is fraternally allied with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Royal Neighbors.

**Christ Lortscher**, farmer and stockman, Washington township, was born in the canton of Berne, Switzerland, September 19, 1870, and is a son of Christ Lortscher, who, in his native mountain country, was a farmer and cabinet maker, following agricultural pursuits in the growing seasons, and in winter seasons, plying his trade of skilled cabinet maker. The senior Lortscher was born in 1843, and died in March, 1890. He was twice married, his first wife being a Miss Lenher, who bore him three children. His second marriage was with Magdalene Zuber, who bore him six children, three of whom are living. She was born in 1849, and died in her native land in 1889.

Christ Lortscher, the subject of this review, was educated in the splendid schools of his native land, and left home in 1888 to make his way in the world. For the first two years he worked in a dairy at Neuvite, Germany, and in 1890, immigrated to America. He located at Sabetha, Kans., and worked as farm hand for five years on the neighborhood farms. He was careful with his savings and very economical, and was enabled to buy eighty acres in Berwick township which he improved and sold seven years later. He then bought his present farm of 240 acres in section 4, Washington township, and has added eighty acres to this, now owning a total of 320 acres of excellent land. Mr. Lortscher has good improvements on his place, and has about ten acres of natural timber. His specialty is the breeding of Shorthorn cattle. He is an expert in live stock and, in former years, bought and shipped live stock for the markets.

Mr. Lortscher was married in 1895 to Miss Emma Krusby, who has borne him children as follows: Louis, born January 6, 1899; the second child died in infancy; Lorene, was born March 12, 1913. The mother of these children was born in Saxony, Germany, May 2, 1873, and immigrated to America in 1892, worked as a domestic at Rochester, N. Y., and later came to Sabetha, Kans., where her marriage with Mr. Lortscher took place. She is a daughter of Frederick and Anna



(Pesieg) Krusby, natives of Germany. After the death of Mr. Krusby in Germany, the widow and two children came to the United States, where she died.

Mr. Lortscher is an independent in politics, and has served as a member of the school board of his district. He is a member of the Evangelical church, and Mrs. Lortscher is a Presbyterian. Few men have accomplished more during the past twenty-six years as a tiller of the soil than Mr. Lortscher has done. America has certainly been kind to him since he came to this country to find and make his fortune. The dreams in which he indulged about America when a youth in his far off native land have come true; and it is undoubtedly true that his success is due to his diligence, careful economy and ambition for which the people of his nationality are noted the world over.

**Samuel C. Neff.**—From farm hand to becoming owner of a fine farm of 180 acres is the summing up of the career of Samuel C. Neff, during his forty-one years of residence in Nemaha county. This biographical chapter is filled with stories of self made men who came to Kansas from the older States in the East with no capital other than a knowledge of agriculture and a willingness to work hard and save their earnings for the purpose of securing a tract of the rich farm land with which this country abounded in the earlier years of its development, and could be bought cheaply by the homeseekers from all parts of the civilized world.

Samuel C. Neff was born on a farm in Fayette county, Illinois, January 11, 1853, and is a son of Samuel and Nancy (Lape) Neff, who were the parents of a large family of ten children, six of whom are living. Samuel Neff, the elder, was born in Darke county, Ohio, in 1819, and became a carpenter in his younger days. After following the carpenter trade for some years, he engaged in farming in Fayette county, Illinois, not far from the city of St. Louis. In 1862, he enlisted for service in the Union army, and enrolled as a member of a company in the Eleventh Illinois infantry, and during one of the engagements in which his regiment participated, he had the misfortune to have four fingers of his right hand shot off. He died in 1875. The mother of Samuel C. Neff was born in Darke county, Ohio, and is living at Sandoval, Ill., at the great age of ninety-eight years. In early life, the parents of Mr. Neff were members of the Methodist church, but, in later years, they were affiliated with the United Brethren church.

He of whom this review is written learned the carpenter's trade under his father's tutelage, and also became a farmer, a combination of trades which are a decided advantage to man, enabling him to succeed in an agricultural community. He came to Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1875, and worked out as farm hand on farms northeast of Seneca at a wage of \$20 per month. He saved his earnings very carefully, and in 1881 he was enabled to buy an eighty acre tract of raw



land, which forms the nucleus of his present holdings of 181 acres. At that time there were but few neighbors in his vicinity, and very few settlers had built homes near his location. When Mr. Neff wished to go to town and do his trading, he would drive in a bee line across the intervening country to Sabetha. He erected a small house 12 x16 feet in size and kept bachelor's hall for a short time, until he wedded the lady of his choice. The Neff homestead is a well improved place, nicely located in section 16, one half mile from the thriving town of Bern, Kans., and is noted for its graded Durham and Shorthorn cattle and Chester White and Poland China swine.

Mr. Neff was married in April, 1881, to Talitha Tripp, who was born December 29, 1864, in Nemaha county, Nebraska, and is a daughter of Benjamin and Rhoda (DeWitt) Tripp of Ohio. Not long after locating in the West and the birth of Talitha, the parents died, and she then came to the Newton home, located six miles east of Seneca. She became an inmate of this home when eleven years old, and was reared and educated by Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Newton. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Neff: Pruella, wife of J. F. Baumgartner, Washington township; Mrs. Blanche Gensler, Frankfort, Kans.; Virgil, Republican City, Neb.; Willard, Bern, Kans.; Ralph, at home; Roy, at Bern, Kans.; Mrs. Pearl Emmert, Bern, Kans.; Monta, Ossie, and Teddy, at home; Earl, twin brother of Pearl, dead.

The Republican party has always had the unswerving allegiance of Mr. Neff, and he has been a steadfast supporter of Republican principles and candidates. He filled the office of justice of the peace in his township for eight years, and has been a member of the school board for a similar length of time. Mrs. Neff is a member of the Presbyterian church.

**Jacob Meisner.**—The Meisner family is one of the best and most favorably known families in Nemaha county, and the sons of Jacob and Susan (Blair) Meisner, who were early settlers in this county, have made names and homes for themselves and occupy high places in their respective communities.

One of the younger members of this well known family is Jacob Meisner, Jr., owner of a fine farm in Washington township, and who was born in Berwick township, July 27, 1878. The reader is referred to the biography of John Meisner, his brother, for a record of his parents, given at length. When Jacob, Jr., was nineteen years old he began farming on his own account by renting land from his parents. He rented until 1899, and then bought the quarter section in section 24, which comprises his home place. He has rebuilt and remodeled practically all of the buildings on the place, and is constantly making improvements, which he deems necessary, to create an attractive and convenient agricultural plant such as is his ambition to own.

Mr. Meisner was married in 1898 to Miss Margaret Warren, who was born November 26, 1865, in Switzerland, and left her native land

with her parents when three years old. The Warren family first located in Missouri and came from that State to Nemaha county, Kansas, where many of their fellow countrymen had located in the vicinity of Bern.

Mr. Meisner is inclined to independence in political matters and does his own thinking and makes up his mind regarding the issues of the day by extensive reading and observation on his own account. He filled the office of treasurer of Washington township, and takes a general and influential interest in civic matters as affecting his home township and county.

**Jacob Wittmer.**—The late Jacob Wittmer, of Washington township, was a man of good parts, an industrious citizen and an excellent farmer, who provided well for his family and departed this life to the bourne from which no man returneth, endowed with the respect and good will of his neighbors and friends. His life was spent in accomplishments of material things and he was sincerely mourned as a kind husband and father by those near and dear to him.

Jacob Wittmer, late of Washington township, was born at Berne, Switzerland, December 10, 1850, and was a son of Jacob and Mary (Reisen) Wittmer, who immigrated from their native country in 1850 and located near Elgin, Iowa. The family lived in Illinois until 1886, and then came to Nemaha county, Kansas, and the elder Wittmer bought land near Bern, Nemaha county. Jacob Wittmer became one of the large land owners of this county and departed this life in 1900. His wife died in 1913, aged eighty-six years. The large estate left by Jacob Wittmer was divided among his children.

Jacob Wittmer, the younger, was reared to young manhood in Clayton county, Iowa, and was married in that county in 1876. He left Iowa in 1892 and located on a rented farm near Bern for two years. He then bought the farm in section 17, which his widow now owns. He cultivated his farm very successfully until 1906. Mr. Wittmer was an independent in politics and served as township treasurer and a member of the school board of his district.

Mrs. Lena Wittmer, widow of the late Jacob Wittmer, was born November 10, 1860, at West Union, Fayette county, Iowa, and is a daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Beer) Mitchell, natives of Germany and Switzerland, respectively. Joseph Mitchell was born in Berlin, Germany, in 1830, immigrated to Iowa and died there on his farm in 1873. Mrs. Wittmer's mother was born in Switzerland in 1823, and died in 1898 at Bern, Kans., whither she removed after her husband's demise. Mrs. Wittmer is owner of 240 acres of good land, which is well improved. In 1912, she built a splendid modern residence of eleven rooms, which is one of the most imposing farm houses in the county. Her son, Benjamin, manages the home farm. The Wittmer farm is stocked with high grade Hereford cattle. Ten children have been born to Jacob Wittmer and wife, as follows: Mrs. Emma Bauman, Washington township; William J., who is farming near Sabetha; John J., a

farmer in Nebraska; Mrs. Sarah Lear, Washington township; Joseph B., farming in his home township; Mrs. Lydia Aeschleman, a widow, living with Mrs. Wittmer; Mrs. Lucy Harter, Sabetha, Kans.; Elsie, Mamie and Benjamin. Mrs. Wittmer and the children are all members of the Apostolic Christian Church.

**Samuel Minger** will have lived fifty years in Washington township at the next anniversary of his birth, January 1, 1917. He is one of the real native born pioneers of Nemaha county, and his father was a homesteader who lived here and proved up on his claim when Indians were plentiful and settlers were few and far between.

Samuel Minger, Jr., was born in Washington township, Nemaha county, January 1, 1867. He is a son of Samuel and Anna (Kilmann) Minger, who were natives of Switzerland. Samuel Minger, Sr., was born near Berne, Switzerland, in 1821, and learned the trade of wagon maker. When he immigrated to the United States he plied his trade in Ohio for some years and then located in Missouri, where he resided until he came to Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1858 and homesteaded a tract of land in Washington township. He walked from his home in St. Joseph, Mo., in a day and night to take up his homestead, and if he had not been able to ply his trade during his first years of residence in Kansas he would have made a failure of his fight to secure a homestead. There were no houses near his location and his nearest market was St. Joseph, where he worked at his trade for six months out of each year, and spent the balance of the year in proving up on his claim. When the Civil war broke out he sold his claim to his brother and made his home at Leavenworth during the war. At the time of his death in 1900 this sturdy old settler was the owner of 240 acres of good Kansas land.

His wife, and mother of Samuel Minger, Jr., was born in Switzerland in 1832, and died in 1898. She was the second wife of Samuel Minger, Sr. Mr. and Mrs. Minger were members of the Reformed Church.

When Samuel Minger, Jr., reached man's estate he rented land from his father, and in 1905 he bought his home place of 240 acres in section 32, Washington township. In addition to this holding he owns eighty acres in Nemaha township. The Minger homestead is well improved and is an excellent producing agricultural plant, which has been brought up to its present state of production by the industry and good management of its owner.

Mr. Minger was married in 1900 to Miss Ida Kanel, who was born in Switzerland in 1880, and came to this country with her parents in 1889, and settled in Richardson county, Nebraska. The Mingers have two children, as follows: Ruth and Esther.

Mr. Minger is a Democrat who votes independently of party ties and does his own thinking along political lines. He has served as clerk of his township and is a progressive citizen, who has the best interests of his native county and State at heart. Mrs. Minger is a member of the Reformed Church.

**William J. Wittmer**, of Rock Creek township, is an excellent representative of the younger generation of farmers in Nemaha county who are making good in the avocation followed by their parents. Mr. Wittmer was born in Fayette county, Iowa, August 19, 1880, and is a son of Jacob and Lena Wittmer, to whose biography the reader is referred for the history of the family. William J Wittmer attended the district schools of his home neighborhood in Iowa and Kansas. He was the eldest son of the family of children reared by his parents, and of necessity his education was sacrificed to meet the needs of his father for help in cultivating his farm. When he became of age he rented land from his uncle, John Wittmer, in Berwick township, and in 1897 he bought his home farm of 160 acres. It was necessary for him to erect a barn and granary and other outbuildings on his place and he has created a very attractive farm home. Near the residence is a grove of three acres, which is planted to fruit and deciduous shade trees and assists in the beautifying of the home. Mr. Wittmer has a herd of grade Shorthorn cattle and is making a gratifying success of his life work. He is part owner of a threshing outfit, which is operated in season. During 1915 Mr. Wittmer cultivated a corn acreage of sixty acres and exhibited some of the famous "Calico Corn" raised in his fields and which was awarded second prize at the Sabetha corn show last fall. During the present season (1916) he is cultivating 120 acres of corn and is also renting an eighty-acre tract just north of his own farm.

Mr. Wittmer was married September 25, 1906, at Alva, Okla., to Miss Emma E. Wenger, who was born in Wells county, Indiana, January 9, 1883, and is a daughter of John and Demaris (Meyer) Wenger, the former of whom died in 1886, and his widow was married again to Henry Plattner. Mr. and Mrs. Wittmer have three children, as follows: Vernon, born June 27, 1907; Orvel, born June 25, 1909; Leola, born December 23, 1913.

Mr. Wittmer is an independent in politics and has served as a member of the local school board.

**Thomas J. Meisner.**—"Grand View Stock Farm."—"Grand View Stock Farm," comprising the Meisner home place in Berwick township, northwest of Sabetha, Kans., and owned and operated by Thomas J. Meisner, is noted the country over for its fine pure bred Poland China swine. The proprietor and originator of this famous drove of swine has achieved National prominence as a breeder and is a director of the International Poland China Breeders' Association. Mr. Meisner has made a deep and thorough study of breeding and is an authority on hog breeding, and is one of the nine official directors who have control of the association in the United States and Great Britain.

Speaking biographically, Thomas J. Meisner was born on the farm which he now owns, July 4, 1873, and is a son of Jacob Meisner, a pioneer settler of Nemaha county, whose biography is written in connection with that of a brother, John Meisner. Thomas J. Meisner at-

tended the nearby district school and when he became of age he rented land on his own account from his father for a time. He inherited eighty acres of the home place, to which he has added another "eighty," making a quarter section in all. He has one of the most attractive and best equipped agricultural plants in this part of Kansas. In 1913 Mr. Meisner erected a handsome eleven-room residence, modern in every respect, and fitted with all conveniences, as are his barns and outbuildings. He is a successful corn grower, and it is a matter worthy of mention that samples of corn taken from his field in 1913 were awarded first prize given on a ten ear exhibit at the Nemaha county fair held in that year. During 1901 he started breeding Poland China hogs on a considerable scale. Since that year he has developed the business to large proportions and holds an annual sales day each year to dispose of the product of his breeding pens to hog fanciers, who come from all parts of the State to attend the sales.

Mr. Meisner was united in marriage with Miss Minnie Bahnier, March 14, 1895. They have four children, as follows: Anna, a student of the Sabetha High School, class of 1917; Glen, Andrew and Cecilia. The mother of these children was born in Wayne county, Ohio, in August, 1874, and first lived with Mrs. John Meisner before her marriage, after coming to Nemaha county.

No political party can lay claim to the support of Mr. Meisner, as he is an independent thinker and voter, who makes his own decisions in regard to the qualifications and claims of party candidates and political creeds, and votes accordingly. He filled the post of truancy officer for the eastern part of Nemaha county, and is a member of the local school board. Mr. Meisner was elected a director of the Kansas Poland China Breeders' Association in 1912, and held the office for two terms in succession, and was re-elected January 5, 1916, and will hold the office for three years. He is one of the nine directors of the International Association, which includes the Poland China breeders in the United States and Great Britain. He is fraternally affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and stands high in Masonic circles. He is fraternally associated with the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Meisner is one of Nemaha county's prominent and successful citizens, who has done more than the ordinary individual to make the county famous, inasmuch as agriculture and live stock production are practically the sole industry of the county. He has not only achieved fame and accumulated a competence for himself, but he has assisted very materially in bringing this great county to the front among Kansas counties.

**Frederick Heiniger**, wealthy farmer of Rock Creek township, was born near the city of Berne, Switzerland, March 26, 1854, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Schmaltz) Heiniger, to whom nine children were born. John Heiniger was born in 1817, and learned the trade of weaver in his youth and was an expert weaver of table cloths and table linens.

He immigrated to America in 1881 and made a settlement in Iroquois county, Illinois, and was employed there until 1889, at which time he came West and located at Bern, Nemaha county, in 1891. That same year he died. John Heiniger was twice married, his first wife being Elizabeth Schmaltz, who was born in 1819 and died in 1864. His second wife was Barbara Hess, now deceased, and who bore him three children.

Frederick Heiniger left his native land, August 1, 1881, after working for nine years as quarryman and weaver. He set sail from Havre on the steamship "America," and on account of a break down in the ship's machinery, the vessel was all of nineteen days in making the trip across the Atlantic to New York City. For a few years Mr. Heiniger worked out by the month in Iroquois county, Illinois, and did tiling and ditching in the swamps of Iroquois county. In March of 1885, he came to Nemaha county, Kansas, and rented a farm near Bern. In 1886, he and his brother, Nicholas, bought a quarter section in Washington township, which they farmed in common until 1889, and he then sold his share in the farm and bought 160 acres in the same section. He sold this farm in 1894 and rented a section of land south of Oneida, in Gilman township, in 1895. He cultivated this large farm for seven years, and in the meantime invested his savings in a section of land in Morris county, Kansas, which he held as an investment from 1898 until 1901. He sold the Morris county land in 1901, and invested the proceeds in 240 acres in Gilman township, five miles northwest of Oneida. He improved this farm and sold it at a profit in 1908, and then bought his present farm in 1909. Mr. Heiniger owns a total of 480 acres in Gilman and Rock Creek townships. Of late years he has turned the active cultivation of his large acreage over to his sons and occupies himself with taking care of the live stock, of which he raises a considerable number, and specializes in Holstein and Jersey cattle. The Heiniger home farm is well improved with a nine-room residence and other farm buildings in excellent repair.

Mr. Heiniger was married to Rosanna Schupbach, October 16, 1875, and eleven children have been born of this marriage, as follows: Frederick, a farmer located in Alfalfa county, Pennsylvania; Rosa; Jacob, farming the home place; Lizzie and William; Joseph, married Stella Myer, and lives in Gilman township; Minnie, deceased; Lena; Mrs. Ida Stoldt, lives in Washington township; a child died in infancy, and the first born was a daughter, who died while an infant. Mrs. Heiniger was born at Thun, Switzerland, March 24, 1851, and is a daughter of John and Barbara (Burke) Schupbach, who were the parents of three children, and are now deceased.

Mr. Heiniger is a member of the Apostolic religious denomination, and on account of the regulations of his creed does not take part in elections, but believes in the Government exercising the power delegated to it. During his residence in Nemaha county, he has killed a large number of wolves and has achieved somewhat of a local fame as a wolf hunter. He is an excellent citizen, who is highly respected by all who know him.

**Smith W. Ayers**, farmer and stockman of Berwick township, was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, August 21, 1874, and is a son of Amos and Martha (Warrick) Ayers, who reared a family of children, as follows: Mary, deceased, wife of John B. Miller; Cora, wife of Rev. Henry H. Branham, living at Medford, Ore., and whose husband is a minister of the Methodist Episcopal faith; Smith W., the subject of this review; Jacob, a farmer on the old home place of the family in Berwick township; George, a merchant of Broken Bow, Custer county, Nebraska; Ella, deceased, wife of George Dixon; Millie, Medford, Ore.; Henry, Broken Bow, Neb.

Amos Ayers was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, March 4, 1851, and was a son of Benjamin Ayers, a native of Pennsylvania, who married a Miss Young. Amos Ayers was reared to become a farmer, and was married at Collinsville, Pa., in 1868. He farmed in his native State until 1880, and then removed with his family to Nemaha county. For the first fourteen years of his residence here he tilled rented land, and in 1890 he bought 215 acres in Berwick township, upon which he located in 1894. He made practically all of the improvements upon this farm, and was very successful in his farming operations. His health failed him in 1895, and he moved to Sabetha, Kans., later moving to Medford, Ore. His first wife, and mother of his children, died in 1895, and two years later he married a Mrs. Cassett.

Smith W. Ayers remained with his parents until he was twenty years old, and then rented the home place, which he cultivated with success for seven years. In 1891 he bought an "eighty" in section 15, and one year later invested his surplus capital in a tract of eighty-one acres more in section 16. He owns at the present time a fine farm of 161 acres.

Mr. Ayers was married December 25, 1894, to Miss Addie Keim, and this marriage has been blessed with six children, as follows: Earl, born October 30, 1896, graduated from the Sabetha High School, taught the Rock Hill district school, and is now employed as clerk in the McKnight Clothing Company's store at Sabetha; Vida, born September 5, 1899, a student in Sabetha High School; Floyd, born November 4, 1900, attending Sabetha High School; Glenn, born December 5, 1902; Forest, born August 26, 1905; Opal, born May 27, 1908. Mrs. Ayers was born on a farm in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, November 4, 1873, and is a daughter of Ephraim and Catharine (Turney) Keim, who settled in Brown county, Kansas, in 1874. Her father was born in Pennsylvania in 1844, and served as a member of a Pennsylvania regiment during the Civil war. He now resides at Tulia, Texas. Her mother was born in 1852, and died in 1881.

Mr. Ayers is a Democrat, who takes considerable interest in the affairs of his party in Nemaha county. He is justice of the peace of his township, and is also filling the post of school director of district No. 108. He and Mrs. Ayers are members of the United Brethren Church,



of which organization Mr. Ayers is a trustee. They take an active interest in the affairs of their church and are highly respected in their neighborhood. Mr. and Mrs. Ayers have accomplished a great deal in Kansas, for which they deserve much credit and praise.

**Jacob J. Miller.**—The late Jacob J. Miller was a pioneer settler of Nemaha county, Kansas, and was one of the famous vanguard of pioneers who came to Kansas in the late fifties and paved the way for the redemption of the vast unpeopled spaces awaiting the advent of the home builders from the East and the Old World, who have since come in ever increasing numbers. Those early, sturdy, brave wilderness conquerors such as Jacob J. Miller doubtless dreamed of the days when the iron locomotive would supplant the slower moving pony express and the immigrant freight trains which wended their slow passage from the Missouri to the far West. He lived to see his dreams come true and attained a portion of the prosperity which was rightfully his before his demise. He served his country in the late Civil war and became an honored and respected citizen of a great county, of which he was one of the first real old settlers.

Jacob J. Miller was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, August 10, 1834, and was a son of Frederick and Elizabeth (Hilt) Miller, who were the parents of eight children, of whom Jacob J. was the sixth in order of birth. He was reared to young manhood in Germany and in 1854 left his native land and immigrated to America, and after a two years' stay on Long Island went to Illinois, where he remained for five years, migrating to Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1859. He preempted a homestead of 160 acres of land with Gabriel Luckett in Rock Creek township. His home was a log cabin which the previous homesteader had built on the farm. He broke up his land with slow moving oxen and continued its cultivation until the outbreak of the Civil war in 1861. Just previous to the Civil war Mr. Miller drove an ox team in an overland freight train from Atchison to Salt Lake City, walking the entire distance to Salt Lake City and part of the return trip. He felt called upon to assist in preserving the Union from dissolution, and accordingly, in 1862, he enlisted in the famous Thirteenth Kansas infantry at Hiawatha and served for three years. He fought at the battle of Prairie Grove and all of the notable engagements in which his regiment participated in the Southwest, attaining the rank of corporal in Company I of the Thirteenth regiment. He returned to his homestead in Nemaha county after his discharge from the service, was married in 1868, and cultivated and improved his land with considerable success until 1908, when he retired to a home in Sabetha. Mr. Miller accumulated the large total of 480 acres of land during his life time, and was one of the well-to-do citizens of Sabetha at the time of his demise, August 20, 1911. He was a member of the Grand Army Post of Sabetha, Kans., and was highly respected and liked by all who knew him for his many excellent qualities.

Jacob J. Miller was married March 4, 1868, to Mary M. Moorehead,





JACOB J. MILLER.



MRS. MARY M. MILLER.



born in Coshocton county, Ohio, August 19, 1847, a daughter of Archibald and Sarah (McBride) Moorehead. Her father was born near Londonderry, Ireland, in 1818, and died in 1881. Upon his immigration to this country, he located in Ohio, where he was married to Sarah McBride, born in 1822, in Coshocton county, Ohio, and died in 1904. Eleven children were born of this union, namely: Mrs. Anna M. Joy, La Connor, Wash.; Mrs. Mary Miller, with whom this review is concerned; Sarah, deceased, wife of Ira F. Collins; William, stockman, deceased; Archibald, banker, and former county treasurer of Nemaha county, deceased; Richard, former probate judge, representative of Nemaha county and present postmaster of Sabetha; Nancy, wife of Roy A. Thompson, Ness City, Kans.; Nettie, deceased, wife of C. Clarkson; Mrs. Jennie L. Clarkson, deceased.

Archibald Moorehead immigrated to America in 1831, when a boy thirteen years old, and after a stay in New York City, he migrated to Ohio. After his marriage in Ohio, he located near Ottumwa, Iowa, where he resided until 1857, and then came West and located on the prairie five miles north of Sabetha, Kans. His first visit to Kansas was made in 1856, at which time he paid \$1,300 for 160 acres of land, which included sixty acres of timber. He eventually settled in Rock Creek township, near the farm owned by Jacob J. Miller, where his family was reared. Mr. and Mrs. Moorehead were members of the Presbyterian church.

Five children were born to the marriage of Jacob J. and Mary Miller, as follows: Belle, living with her mother, graduated from the Nebraska State Normal School and the Kansas Teachers' Training School at Pittsburg, Kans., taught the second grade of the Seneca schools for four years, taught the seventh grade of the Sabetha schools for one year, and then gave up teaching. Circumstances, however, caused her to teach for three years in her home district, and then in Falls City, Neb., for one year. She also taught at Logan, Utah, previous to retiring from her profession, since which time she has traveled extensively in the United States.

Lillie E., wife of J. Lortscher, Fairview, Kans, was also a teacher for four years, and is the mother of four children, namely: Lucile, John, Paul, Loraine and Esther.

Prof. Benjamin Leroy Miller graduated from the Kansas State University and taught in Penn College at Oskaloosa, Iowa, for three years, following which he attended the Johns Hopkins University at Baltimore, Md., and received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. He then taught at Bryn Mawr College, in Pennsylvania, and is now head of the department of geology of Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa. Prof. Benjamin Leroy Miller is a fine type of intellectual development, physically and morally strong. During 1915 he was granted a leave of absence from his chair at Lehigh and traveled for eight months in geological research

in South America. For further particulars of Dr. Miller's accomplishments, the reader is referred to the chapter, "Nemaha Men and Women of Renown," in this volume.

Nellie attended the State Normal School at Peru, Neb., and is now residing at Parsons, Kans.

Paul, the youngest of the family, is a farmer in Rock Creek township. It was the ambition of Jacob J. Miller to give each of his children an excellent education, and he succeeded in this very laudable desire—thereby bequeathing to his country a family whose members have taken honored and useful places in their respective communities and who revere the memory of a parent whose care and forethought have enabled them to become successful and useful men and women. Mrs. Miller shared her late husband's desire and did her part nobly by assisting in carrying out her husband's ambitions, and was of the greatest assistance to him during the years in which he and she were rearing their fine family and trying to attain to a position of comfort and well being. Mrs. Miller is a member of the Congregational church, the missionary society connected with the church, and is active in church and social doings in Sabetha. She is also affiliated with the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

**Humphrey Brothers**, general merchants, Woodlawn, Kans., are hustlers and good business men of the most pronounced type. Since locating in Nemaha county in 1910, the brothers, John N., Edgar and Huff Humphrey, have been building up an extensive retail merchandise business in Woodlawn, and have become popular and well liked by their many patrons and friends throughout the county.

John N. Humphrey, senior member of the firm, was born in Pendleton county, Kentucky, December 2, 1875, and is a son of Hiram P. and Nancy (Price) Humphrey, who are the parents of six children, as follows: Minnie, wife of N. C. Hurst, living in Kentucky; John N., the subject of this review; Lydia, wife of S. E. Muse, Enterprise, Miss.; Edgar, born December 4, 1882, in Fleming county, Kentucky; Huff, twin brother of Edgar; Mattie, wife of H. P. Muse, Enterprise, Miss.

Hiram P. Humphrey, the father, was born in Harrison county, Kentucky, January 11, 1849, and was reared to farm life. In 1878 he located in Fleming county, Kentucky, and worked at his trade and farmed until his retirement from active work in 1915. He was a son of Emanuel Humphrey, a native of Culpepper county, Virginia, who was a son of Gilford Humphrey. The mother of this family was born in Harrison county, Kentucky, December 4, 1847, and her marriage with Mr. Humphrey occurred in 1871. She died April 24, 1892. Mr. and Mrs. Humphrey were members of the Christian Church.

John N. Humphrey was reared on the home farm of the family in Kentucky and began as clerk in a general store in 1901 at Plummer's Landing, in Kentucky. He resigned his situation after a service of four years and four months, and, in partnership with his brothers, Edgar and

Huff, purchased a lumber mill in Rowan county, Kentucky. They operated this mill for four years, and in 1910, sold out and came to Woodlawn, Kans., and purchased the general store, which they are now conducting with signal success. Mr. Humphery is a Republican in politics and is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

**James Wallace Foster.**—The Foster family, of Capioma township, is one of the most prominent and one of the real pioneer families of Nemaha county, Kansas. The late James Foster, of this township, was a useful and enterprising citizen, who lived a very industrious life, and accumulated a considerable estate as the result of his endeavors in the county. He also reared a fine family of sons and daughters, who are good citizens in the civic life of their home county and township.

James Foster, late of Capioma township, was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, February 7, 1832, and was a son of James and Eliza (George) Foster, natives of Westmoreland county, and who were members of old American families descended from Scotch Covenanters, who fled from Scotland to the north of Ireland to escape religious persecution in the seventeenth century. The name of the family had its origin in Scotland from the fact that the original founder of the family of Fosters was chief forester to a king of Scotland, and the name, in the course of time, was naturally abbreviated to "Foster." This is the customary origin of practically all of the names of the English-speaking race, and developed from the use of practically a single name to the custom of the past several centuries of using a Christian and sur-name. From the north of Ireland the family, or several of its members, immigrated to America, probably some time early in the eighteenth century, and made settlements in Pennsylvania. The present generation can, therefore, lay just claim to being of pure American ancestry.

James W. Foster was reared amid the hills of his native county of Westmoreland, in Pennsylvania, and when the call came from President Lincoln for troops with which to quell the rebellion of the Southern States, he responded to the first call and enlisted in 1861 in company with his brother, William, who was later killed at the great battle of Spottsylvania Court House, Pa. The brothers enlisted in Company K, Eleventh Pennsylvania infantry, and served for three months in their native State. June 25, 1861, James W. re-enlisted in Company E, First battalion, Eleventh Pennsylvania infantry, and for a time his command was engaged on scout duty and rounding up deserters from the Union army. He was discharged from the service in 1863. Previous to his enlistment, he made a trip to the great West in 1859, and traveled overland with a freighting outfit, which left Kansas City, Mo., in charge of James Allison enroute to San Francisco. Mr. Foster was one of the outriders of the expedition and rode a mule the entire distance across the continent. He was accompanied by a boyhood friend named Jefferson Dunlap, whose father owned a farm adjoining that of the Fosters in Pennsylvania. The boys made the trip without mishap and returned home

by way of the ocean route to New York City. They did not find their fortune, however, and it is a matter of record that the two young adventurers had but twenty-five cents apiece when they arrived home.

Mr. Foster was married in 1865 and after farming in his home county for some years he came West to Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1879, and made a purchase of 160 acres of land. His first act was to build a small house, 16x16 feet in dimension, with a height of twelve feet. He then broke up eighty acres of his land during the first season and sowed it to crops. One month after his arrival in Kansas he was joined by his wife and five small children, who made the long trip to the new home in Nemaha county without mishap. Mr. Foster prospered in this county and at the time of his death he owned 280 acres, the home place of the Fosters being located in section 5 of Capioma township. James Foster died September 2, 1908. He was a stanch Republican, and was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

James W. Foster was married in February, 1865, to Mrs. Miranda, widow of James McCaddon, and to this union have been born the following children: James G., a resident of Pittsburg, Pa.; Effie, at home with her mother; Frank H., at home; Harry W.; Gaylor., died in infancy. Mrs. Miranda Foster was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, June 22, 1830, and is a daughter of John M. and Phoebe (Doty) Hartley, of Scotch-Irish descent, and who came of old American families. Nathaniel Hartley, grandfather of Mrs. Foster, was a soldier of the Revolution and her father, John Hartley, fought in the War of 1812. She is undoubtedly the oldest living pioneer woman in Capioma township.

Harry W. Foster, farmer and stockman, of Capioma township, and son of James W. Foster, was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, August 10, 1872. Seven years later he accompanied his parents to Nemaha county, and was educated in the Maple Ridge school and Campbell University, at Holton, Kans. When nineteen years old he began working as a farm hand on his own account. For two years he rented land and in 1908 he bought a forty-acre tract in Capioma township. In addition to farming this tract, he is cultivating 120 acres of the home place.

Harry W. Foster was married in 1901 to Miss Ida S. Johnson, who was born in Capioma township, April 1, 1874, and is a daughter of William and Mary Lafferty Johnson, whose biographies are given elsewhere in this volume. Three children have been born to this union, namely: Hartley, born July 9, 1904; Helen, born December 23, 1909; Lois G., born July 11, 1914.

Harry W. Foster is a Republican in politics and is now serving as clerk of his township and is school director of his district. He and Mrs. Foster are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Foster is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and is a Mystic Shriner and Scottish Rite Mason of high degree.

**Dennis McFall**, of Capioma township, was born on a farm near Peoria, Ill., December 11, 1865, and the eldest of four children born to his parents, John and Mary (McCann) McFall, who were natives of Ireland. John McFall, his father, was born in 1843, and settled in Illinois soon after immigrating to this country. In 1872, he came to Nemaha county, Kansas, and bought a farm of eighty acres in section 8, Capioma township. One year later, while cleaning out a well on his neighbor's place he was overcome with foul air, which had accumulated in the bottom of the well, and died before help could reach him. Mrs. Mary McFall, mother of Dennis, was born in Ireland in 1854, and after her first husband's death, she married John McCoy, a native of Ireland, who in his day was a great traveler and a gold miner, and is now deceased. Mrs. McCoy died in 1893.

Dennis McFall began farming on his own account in 1893, and bought his first farm of eighty acres in 1894, and has since increased his acreage to 160 acres, located in section 7, Capioma township.

Mr. McFall was married at Woodlawn, Kans., to Mary Ann Henry, June 26, 1889, and to this marriage have been born four children, as follows: George E., born October 16, 1890, and died September 17, 1892; Henry E., born August 27, 1892; Melvin C., born May 8, 1897, and Ethel L., born August 18, 1905.

The mother of the foregoing children was born near Ripley, Ohio, August 8, 1870, and is a daughter of Samuel W. and Margaret A. (Williams) Henry, natives of the Buckeye State. Her parents immigrated to Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1871, and followed farming pursuits until Mr. Henry's death. His widow is now making her home at Sabetha, Kans.

Mr. McFall votes independently at election time, and does not bother his mind much with political affairs. He has served as constable of his township. He and Mrs. McFall are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and are likable and agreeable people, who thoroughly enjoy living.

**John McCoy.**—A well-kept place and a neat appearing farm is that managed by John McCoy, of Capioma township, who is one of the most successful farmers in Nemaha county and a large feeder of cattle and hogs. Mr. McCoy is essentially a live stock man and works his acreage on the theory of marketing his farm products on the hoof as the most economical and affording the best means of maintaining the fertility of the soil. He is a son of James McCoy, a pioneer resident of Nemaha county, and late of Capioma township.

James McCoy was born in County Antrim, Ireland, in July 1835, and in his youth became a sailor. His was an adventurous life, and he, in the course of his wanderings while sailing the high seas, located in Australia and worked in the gold mines. Upon his return to Ireland, after an absence of several years, he married the sweetheart of his boyhood days, Miss Jane Glass, who was born April 22, 1840. Not long

after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. McCoy set sail for America in February, 1863, and landed at New York in May, 1863. The voyage across the broad Atlantic consumed six weeks and three days in the making. Upon his arrival here Mr. McCoy was employed as boss "blower" in a stone quarry in Pennsylvania, and was thus employed until March of 1877, when he migrated westward to Kansas in search of a permanent home on the cheap lands of Nemaha county. The family were all of seven days in making the long journey to the promised land, and after his arrival in this county, Mr. McCoy rented land in different localities while casting about for a good location for his homestead. He bought a quarter section in section 6 of Capioma township in 1883, erected a home and farm buildings and made his home thereon until his death, September 22, 1900. He became well-to-do as the inevitable reward of industry and thrift, and owned 180 acres of good land at the time of his death. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. McCoy, namely: Archie G., a farmer in Capioma township; James, Los Angeles, Cal.; Mrs. Jennie McFall, living in Capioma township; Anna A., a graduate of the State Normal School, and a teacher in the public schools of Syracuse, Kans.; Charlotte, wife of Richard Ford, and a former teacher, lives at Madison, Kans.; Eliza M., educated in the State Normal, and teaching in the public schools of Seattle, Wash.

John McCoy, the fourth child of his parents, was born September 17, 1869, in Montgomery county, Pennsylvania. He was reared to young manhood on the McCoy home place, and since his father's death has looked after the family estate. He is cultivating 300 acres of land this year (1916) and maintains from fifty to one hundred head of cattle each year, and about thirty head of mules. He has planted 100 acres of corn, and is raising over 180 head of hogs for the markets. Mr. McCoy has made good as a farmer and owns 360 acres of land on his own account in Capioma township, eighty acres of which he farms himself and rents out the remainder to a tenant.

Like his father before him, he votes the Republican ticket and is a member of the same church to which his father and mother gave their allegiance and in which they worshipped according to the Methodist faith. He is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Oneida, Kans.

**Charles H. Jonach.**—"Jonach Brothers."—Charles H. Jonach, with his brothers, Thomas and Matthew, are among the most enterprising farmers of Capioma township, and are native born in Nemaha county, Kansas. The Jonach farm is one of the oldest settled tracts of land in Nemaha county and this section of Kansas. Mr. Jonach is farming 160 acres of land in the most progressive and up-to-date manner possible, and uses the latest traction drawn machinery in the farm work that can be purchased. Mr. Jonach has out fifty acres of corn, which is unquestionably the finest tract of growing corn in this section of Kansas and very possibly the State. All of the plowing on the place is done by means



of a gas tractor, "The Yuba Ball Tread Tractor," for which the Jonach Brothers have the exclusive agency in the county. A six plow rig which they are using, a model 18, costing \$3,000, and their model 12, which cost \$2,250, are destined to revolutionize farming methods in this vicinity in the course of time, as the new labor saving machines are placed in more general use among the farmers. The best and most advanced methods of farming are followed by these progressive farmers and the condition of the crops on the Jonach farms shows the results of the latest methods of practical farming.

Emil Jonach, father of the Jonach Brothers, and a pioneer settler of Nemaha county is one of the oldest living old settlers of Capioma township and Nemaha county. He was born in Germany, February 25, 1833, and is a son of Charles and Fredricka (Schreiber) Jonach, who were the parents of two children, Karl, deceased, and Emil. Charles Jonach was a tailor in his native land and died when Emil was a child. His widow immigrated to America in 1859, and later joined her son, Emil, in Nemaha county, where she died in 1861, aged seventy-two years. Emil Jonach immigrated to this country in 1851 and first located at Brooklyn, N. Y., and worked at his trade of barber until 1855. In that year he accompanied John Sharon, a banker to Leavenworth, Kans., on a trading expedition. They loaded up with a stock of tobacco and other luxuries, which were denied Uncle Sam's soldiers by the Government, and drove to Fort Kearney and disposed of their stock of goods to the soldiers stationed at Fort Kearney. In 1856, Mr. Jonach made a settlement in Capioma township, this county, and pre-empted a quarter section of land. He erected a log cabin and broke up his land with oxen, using from three to six yoke in the breaking process. He is now owner of 400 acres of land and makes his home among his children.

Emil Jonach was married in July, 1865, to Martha Laughlin, who was born in Indiana, December 1, 1855, and resides on the home place of the Jonachs. Fourteen children were born to Emil and Martha Jonach, as follows: Mary, wife of H. P. Livings, Capioma township; Thomas, born April 9, 1868, and Matthew, born January 19, 1871, farming the home place in section 9, Capioma township; Mrs. Nellie Gharst, a widow, residing with her brothers; Mrs. Jane Baumgartner, living on a farm west of Woodlawn, Kans.; Mrs. Effie Davidson, living in western Nebraska; Charles H., subject of this review; Emil, Jr., merchant of Kelly, Kans.; Oliver, on that part of the Jonach estate located in section 17, Capioma township. The remaining children died in infancy.

Charles H. Jonach was born in Capioma township, October 19, 1879, and has become owner of a quarter section of land, which he is cultivating. A few years ago he and his brother became interested in tractors as a means of lightening the farm labor and introduced the late model, "Yuba Ball Tread" tractor, on his farm, and has since used the new machine with gratifying success. He and his brothers have undertaken the sale of this time and labor saving machine and are achieving success

as salesmen for the gas tractors. The "Yuba Ball Tread" tractor, together with a six plow rig, is a wonderful implement for use on the farm and is destined to take the place of many horses in the near future, as farmers become enthused over the possibilities of tractor power on the farm.

**Jefferson Brownlee.**—The late Jefferson Brownlee, of Capioma township, was born in Hancock county, Illinois, September 10, 1847, and was a son of Samuel and Mary (O'Connor) Brownlee, who were the parents of four sons and three daughters. Samuel Brownlee was born near Monmouth, Ill., followed the vocation of farmer during his entire life, and died in October, 1888, aged seventy years. Mrs. Mary Brownlee was born in Virginia in 1823, and departed this life in 1914. During the great gold rush of the late forties, Samuel Brownlee made a trip West to the gold fields, and during his outward trip he camped on the Nemaha river banks, near where the city of Seneca now stands. He observed at the time that a dead Indian had been laid away in a tree, the body being encased in a woven basket and placed in the forks of a tree, according to the Indian custom of burial.

Jefferson Brownlee was reared in Hancock county, Illinois, and was there married. In 1879, he drove across the intervening country with his possessions loaded on three wagons, with other men in the expedition in search of a homestead. The party located in Osborn county, Kansas, but Mr. Brownlee remained there but three years, and came to Nemaha county in 1882. He bought a quarter section of land in section 15, Capioma township, which was practically unimproved at the time of his purchase. He built a small house and barn and gradually improved his place. Mr. Brownlee was noted as a successful breeder of Clydesdale horses, which he exhibited at the county fairs with great success. His exhibit of fine horses won first prize at Sabetha, Kans., in 1886.

Mr. Brownlee was married January 22, 1874, in Hancock county, Illinois, to Delia Durant, and four children were born to this marriage, as follows: Snow, a traveling salesman of Junction City, Kans.; Jessie, at home with her mother; Harry, a veterinary of Capioma township; Gale, at home. Mrs. Brownlee was born on a farm in Adams county, Illinois, September 25, 1849, and is a daughter of Henry S. and Mary (Nichols) Durant, and is the eldest of four children. Henry Durant, her father, was born in Tennessee in 1828, and died in 1855. His wife, Mary, was born in Kentucky in 1828, and makes her home in Hancock county, Illinois. Mrs. Delia Brownlee is managing the home farm of 120 acres, which she improved in 1915 with a new barn, 36x38 feet in dimensions.

Jefferson Brownlee departed this life October 16, 1887, and his death marked the passing of a useful and industrious citizen, who had the respect of all who knew him. He was a member of the Christian Church, with which denomination Mrs. Brownlee is also affiliated.

**Charles A. Partridge.**—Although Charles A. Partridge, of Capioma township, is one of the younger farmers of Nemaha county, he has achieved a success but little short of remarkable during the years in which he has been farming on his own account. Starting with a quarter section of land, which was bequeathed to him and his sister from the family estate, he has increased his land holdings to the great total of over 600 acres in less than a decade, by wise management and tireless industry. He is descended from one of the oldest American families of Scotch descent and his birthright probably explains his aptitude for successful achievement in his adopted State, of which his people were the second group of pioneers. The Partridge family located in Nemaha county, Kansas, in the eighties, and have been intimately identified with the civic and constructive activities of the county since their first advent into the county.

James Partridge, father of Charles A., was born in Licking county, Ohio, May 10, 1830, and was a son of Ebenezer and Lueretia (Wilder) Partridge, both of whom were natives of Vermont. They, Ebenezer and Lueretia Partridge, probably settled in Ohio with their individual parents at an early date in the history of the Buckeye State, where they were reared to maturity and were married. They lived in Ohio until death called them. James Partridge was reared to young manhood in Licking county, Ohio, and responded to the President's call for troops with which to quell the rebellion of the Southern States in 1861. He enlisted in Company D, One Hundred and Thirtieth Ohio infantry, and fought in many great battles during the Civil war. Among the notable engagements in which his regiment took an active part were the battles of Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge and Kenesaw Mountain. He marched with General Sherman's grand army in its victorious "March from Atlanta to the Sea," and during the latter part of the campaign was taken prisoner by the Rebels and incarcerated in Libby Prison for forty-eight hours. Mr. Partridge served until the close of the war and was honorably discharged from the service in 1865. In 1873 he made a settlement in Piatt county, Illinois, and resided there until 1882, at which time he came west to Kansas and bought a quarter section of land in Capioma township, Nemaha county. This farm was partly improved at the time of his purchase and he added other improvements during the course of his residence in Kansas and created a very fine homestead. Mr. Partridge was allied with the Republican party and took an active part in political affairs in Nemaha county, serving as treasurer of Capioma township. His death occurred January 13, 1911. He was married in 1861 to Sarah Jones, born in Licking county, Ohio, April 4, 1840, and who departed this life in 1893. Mr. and Mrs. Partridge were members of the Presbyterian Church and are interred in the Capioma cemetery. They were the parents of the following children: Mrs. Nellie Shipman, Highland, Kans.; Elias T., deceased; Clara, housekeeper for Charles A., on the old home place; Charles A., subject of this review.

Charles A. Partridge was born on a farm in Piatt county, Illinois, September 18, 1876, and was reared to become a farmer. When he became of age, and even before he attained his majority, he took active charge of the family farm in Capioma township with his brother, Elias, and sister, Clara. Upon his father's demise, they inherited the home place of 160 acres, and have since increased their holdings to 645 acres of good Kansas land. Mr. Partridge has recently remodeled the old home into a more attractive and modern house by additions and the installation of a steam heating plant, together with a water sysem and an acetylene lighting system. Mr. and Miss Partridge are comfortably situated and through industry and good management have risen to become substantial and well-to-do farmers of the county.

Mr. Partridge is a Republican in politics, but finds little time aside from his farming pursuits to take much part in political matters. He is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America and he and Miss Partridge are well and favorably known to a large circle of friends and acquaintances, who esteem them for their many good qualities.

**George W. Phillips.**—The reviewer in writing the life story of a pioneer who has passed the age of four score years, easily finds a great amount of interesting matter to record; so much, in fact, that lack of space forbids very extended mention of the deeds and activities of such a citizen as George W. Phillips, Kansas pioneer, Union veteran and grand old man of Capioma township. When Mr. Phillips came to Nemaha county forty-seven years ago there were few houses on the road to Seneca, and the way of travel was across the unfenced prairie lands. Indians were numerous and wild game was plentiful, as well as bull snakes and rattlesnakes, of which the early settler was compelled to be ever wary. Mr. Phillips recalls having killed an immense bull snake over eight feet in length. Wild gooseberries were plentiful and Indian squaws were wont to pick them and sell them to the settlers, and Mr. Phillips bought many quarts of the delicious fruit.

George W. Phillips, retired farmer of Capioma township, was born at Nassau, Rensselaer county, New York, July 2, 1836. He is a son of Joseph and Mary (Boughton) Phillips, who were the parents of nine children, of whom George W. is the youngest and only living child. Joseph Phillips, his father, was born in New York City, in December of 1797, and became a farmer. He died in 1879. George W. Phillips' mother was born in Albany county, New York, in January, 1798, and died in 1879. Both parents were members of the Congregational Church and were descended from old American families.

Mr. Phillips received his schooling in a little log school house near his home in Rensselaer county, New York, and grew up sturdy and strong amid the primitive surroundings of his boyhood home. When the Civil war began he enlisted in Company A. One Hundred and Fifty-first New York infantry, and saw a great deal of service in West Virginia. His regiment had much to do with winning West Virginia for

the Union, and his company gained the name of the "Flying Squadron" of the One Hundred and Fifty-first regiment because of their daredeviltry when in action and when chasing Imboden's cavalry. He was wounded in the head at Fort Harrison, but was never sent to the army hospital. During 1864 he passed an examination at Washington, D. C., for the post of second lieutenant and received his commission in July, 1864, as second lieutenant of Company D, One Hundred and Ninth Kentucky infantry. At this time he had the honor of being shaken warmly by the hand by the great Lincoln and has never forgotten the incident. The President congratulated him on his successful promotion and made an impression upon the young soldier which has never been forgotten. During the remainder of Lieutenant Phillips' war service his command took part in many skirmishes and were kept busy in running down detachments of Rebels in the border States and the South.

For two years following his discharge from the Union service, Mr. Phillips was employed in a New York nursery. In 1869 he came to Nemaha county, Kansas, in search of a homestead and eventually found it in one of the garden spots of the great West. For ten years he worked at his trade of carpenter and farmed in the meantime in Capioma township. In 1879, he bought eighty acres in section 23, this township, and improved it with a home and buildings, trees and shrubbery. He later added another eighty acres, located in section 22, and now owns a quarter section of fine land. His second "eighty" was improved at the time of purchase. Of late years this aged veteran has been taking life easy and has turned over the management of the farm to his son.

In the same year of his departure for Kansas, Mr. Phillips was married to Fancelia Potter, who was born in Jefferson county, New York, February 12, 1843, and departed this life in February, 1893. Three children were born to this marriage, as follows: Daniel, a mining engineer employed in old Mexico; William, married Nellie Partridge, and is farming the home place; Fred, a locomotive engineer employed on the Great Northern railway at Livingston, Mont. Four children have been born to William and Nellie Phillips, as follows: Grace, Kathryn, Helen and Mary. For the past ten years Mr. Phillips has lived happily and contentedly with his son and daughter-in-law, whom he has known and loved since her babyhood.

Mr. Phillips is a stanch Republican in his political belief and it is a matter of pride with him that he cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln for President while on the field of battle, although his vote necessarily had to be sent from his headquarters to his home precinct for counting. During his residence in Capioma township, he has filled practically every township office, such as trustee, clerk and treasurer of the township. He is a member of the Sabetha Grand Army Post, and enjoys the distinction of being without doubt the oldest living pioneer settler in Capioma township.

**William M. King**, proprietor of a half section of land in Capioma and Adams townships, was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, October 15, 1868, and is a son of George and Elizabeth (Lanning) King, to whom were born eleven children, eight of whom are living. George King was a farmer in Pennsylvania and died when William M. was seven years old. He was born in 1835. Mrs. Elizabeth King was born in Pennsylvania in 1834, a sister of John Lanning, of Sabetha, and is now living at Connellsville, Pa.

William M. King left his native State in 1883 and came to Sabetha, Kans. He worked as farm hand and was employed in a lumber yard until he rented a farm north of Woodlawn, in Capioma township. He rented this farm until 1899, and then bought an eighty-acre tract in section 19, Capioma township. He has made many improvements on his place and has added to his acreage until he owns 320 acres in Capioma and Adams townships as a reward for his industry and good financial management.

Mr. King was married to Hattie Bladget, November 5, 1890, and four children have been born to this union, as follows: Ernest, Lester, Clayton and Gale. Mrs. King was born in Nemaha county, October 1, 1873, and is a daughter of Richard and Melissa (Rhea) Bladget, who are living on a farm in Capioma township.

Mr. King is a Republican, but finds no time for politics and prefers to devote his whole time and attention to the needs of his large farm and his growing family of children. He and Mrs. King are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

**William E. Thompson**, farmer and stockman, Capioma township, was born at Des Moines, Iowa, November 19, 1872, and is a son of Rev. Samuel F. and Margaret (Lytton) Thompson, who were the parents of four children, as follows: Fred D., Anderson county, Kansas; William E., the subject of this review; John A., living in Morris county, Kansas, and Walter, who died in infancy. Rev. Samuel F. Thompson was born at North Media, Ill., June 24, 1846, and was there reared and began his studies in preparation for the Presbyterian ministry at Monmouth College. When the Civil war began, he abandoned his studies and enlisted for the Union service in an Illinois regiment of volunteers and served from February, 1864, to the time of his final discharge, in September, 1865. He resumed his ministerial studies after the close of the war and in the spring of 1870 he was sent by the United Presbytery as a missionary to Colorado, where he worked in behalf of his church denomination for twelve years. In 1882 he came to Nemaha county, Kansas, and rented a farm four miles south of Sabetha for a time. He also lived on a farm near Baileyville. In 1904 he moved to Morris county, Kansas, and is residing on a farm in that county. Rev. Samuel F. Thompson was twice married, his first marriage taking place with Margaret Lytton, November 19, 1869, and she died in 1874. His second marriage took place February 11, 1886, with Mary Marsh, who was born in Kentucky, and

this union has been blessed with three children, as follows: Mrs. Hattie G. Roy, Morris county, Kansas; Earl F., Montana; Mrs. Helen G. Roy, Montana; Mrs. Elsie M. Anderson, Morris county, Kansas.

William E. Thompson was reared on the farm and was educated in Harmony School. For six years he worked out as farm hand and at the age of nineteen years he rented a farm three miles south and a mile east of Sabetha. In 1892, he moved to Woodlawn and rented land in Capioma township for ten years. With his savings he bought eighty acres south of the Woodlawn store, but sold this tract in 1907 and bought his present home farm of 160 acres, which he has improved considerably.

Mr. Thompson was married, April 12, 1899, to Miss Mary McCoy, born in Capioma township, August 6, 1876, a daughter of John and Mary (McFall) McCoy, whose biographies are given elsewhere in this volume. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, as follows: Irene, Leland, Helen, Richard, Lena and Harold. Mr. Thompson is a Republican in politics, and is an excellent citizen and an industrious farmer, who is esteemed by his many friends and acquaintances.

**Emil R. Burky**, prosperous farmer of Capioma township, was born June 3, 1868, in the canton of Berne, Switzerland. Since boyhood, he has been diligent and hard working and in his youth took charge of his father's farm while his father was working at his trade of carpenter.

He is the son of Daniel and Eliza (Rufenacht) Burky, natives of Switzerland, who were the parents of two children, as follows: Mrs. Emma McClain and Emil R., the subject of this review. Daniel Burky was born in April, 1842, in the canton of Berne, Switzerland, and learned the carpenter's trade in his youth. He became a contractor and builder and plied his vocation in Kansas after his immigration to Nemaha county, Kansas, in February, 1879. He first stopped in Sabetha and from there sent for his family, who followed him to this country in June of the same year. Mr. Burky lived in Sabetha and followed his trade until 1882, and then moved to Woodlawn, Kans. In 1884, he bought an unimproved tract of 120 acres in section 29 of Capioma township, and made his home thereon until 1908, when he retired to a home in Sabetha, where he died in 1909. Mrs. Burky, mother of Emil R., was born in Switzerland in December, 1847, and is now keeping house for her son, Emil.

Emil R. Burky, subject of this review, was eleven years old when the family left Switzerland. He had studied in the French schools in his native land and after coming to Kansas he continued his studies while taking care of his father's farm. While he was still a youth the care of the farm devolved upon him, because his father was kept busily employed with his building operations. He became a student at the Baptist Seminary at Morrill, Kans., in 1900, and two years later he studied at Campbell College, Holton, Kans. This study was undertaken with a view to prepare himself for the teaching profession, which he followed for seven years in Brown and Nemaha counties with ex-



cellent success. In the meantime he created one of the best improved farms in Nemaha county from the tract of prairie land which his father purchased in 1884. His success as an agriculturist is attested by the fact that he increased the land holdings from the original 120 acres to the large total of 400 acres, and has achieved some reputation as a live stock breeder. Sixty acres of the Burky farm is sown to alfalfa, and the farm produces over 100 head of cattle annually. For the past year Mr. Burky has been engaged in the breeding of sheep, and has proven that sheep are money producers on Kansas land. He has also dealt extensively in mules, and of late has embarked in the breeding of Percheron horses, and maintains an excellent stud on his farm.

Mr. Burky is an independent Republican, who is one of the leaders of his party in Nemaha county. He served as justice of the peace, school trustee and township clerk, and was a candidate for registrar of deeds on the Republican ticket in 1908, but was defeated by the very narrow margin of ninety votes by John M. Taylor. He is a member of the Baptist Church and is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights and Ladies of Security. The Burky farm is a very historic one because of the fact that the old Atchison trail crosses the south quarter section in section 32, and on the northeast eighty the old north trail was plainly marked in the early days.

**Oscar S. Ashley**, owner of a fine farm of 160 acres in Capioma township, is a progressive and enterprising agriculturist who is a specialist in animal husbandry. He has achieved more than a local reputation as a breeder of Durham cattle and Percheron horses and has made a striking success as a citizen and farmer.

Mr. Ashley was born at Laporte, Ind., April 25, 1856, and is the only son of Elburtus and Mary (Spaulding) Ashley. Elburtus M. Ashley, his father, was born at Hartland, Vt., February 11, 1828, and became a carpenter. When a young man he removed to Laporte, Ind. From Indiana he went to Wisconsin and became a pioneer in that State. He removed to Black Hawk county, Iowa, in 1857, and was also a pioneer in that state. His thorough American ancestry caused him to enlist on August 15, 1862, in Company D, Thirty-first Iowa Volunteers, and he was made sergeant of his company. Mr. Ashley participated with his regiment in many hard fought battles during the Civil war, and he accompanied General Sherman's command in its historic march from Atlanta to the sea, and received his final discharge from the service at the close of the war. After the war, he followed his trade of mill wright and carpenter in Iowa until 1872, and then migrated to Nemaha county, Kansas, arriving at Sabetha on October 11, 1872. During the following winter, he worked at his trade in the growing village, and in the spring of 1873, he rented land two miles south of Sabetha where he lived for fifteen years while tilling different farms. For some years he cultivated the farm owned by Louis Turner, his father-in-law. Mr. Ashley died at the home of his daughter in Capioma township in 1882. He was twice married. His first wife,



Mary Spaulding, born November 17, 1837, and was married June 10, 1855, and she died October 13, 1857. In 1860, Mr. Ashley was again married to Mary Ann Turner, a native of Laporte City, Iowa, and who bore him three children, as follows: Mrs. Flora Cady, of Vermont; Mrs. Minnie Glenn, wife of Thomas Glenn, of Capioma township; Birdie, wife of Charles Glenn, Capioma township.

Oscar S. Ashley was reared to young manhood on his father's farm, and lived at Laporte City, Iowa, until fourteen years of age, and attended school in his native State. After coming to Kansas with his parents in 1872, he finished his schooling at Sabetha when the school building consisted of one small room. He remained with his father on the farm in Rock Creek township until 1883, and then rented land for a few years. In 1885, he moved to a farm of eighty-seven acres near Price, Kans., given to Mrs. Ashley by her father, which he improved with buildings, orchard and well, and farmed this tract until he sold it in 1908. He then bought 160 acres in section 2, Capioma township, which was improved at the time of his purchase. Mr. Ashley raises wheat, oats, alfalfa, and corn, and has the only ten acre plot of prairie hay in Capioma township. He specializes in Durham cattle and Percheron horses.

Mr. Ashley was married December 31, 1882, at the old Trees homestead in Brown county, Kansas, to Sarah Rebecca, daughter of Andrew Jackson Trees, a Kansas pioneer whose biography is given elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Ashley was born in Clermont county, Ohio, November 28, 1858. Four generations of the Trees family were living until recently. Mr. and Mrs. Ashley are the parents of ten children, as follows: Wesley, born September 5, 1883, and died May 10, 1895; Bernal, born November 27, 1885, and is assistant auditor for the Metropolitan Street Railway Company at Kansas City, Mo.; Blanche, widow of Frank McNergney, lives with her parents, and has a child, Quentin, born in April, 1911; Maud, born January 2, 1889, a teacher in the schools of Powhattan, Kans.; the fifth child died in infancy; Zella, born April 19, 1892; Fannie, born January 5, 1894, a teacher in the Oneida schools; Fernie, born May 24, 1896; Frances H., born March 12, 1898; Dessie, born October 12, 1900, and died February 11, 1901. Mr. and Mrs. Ashley are ambitious for their children's success in life, and have seen to it that each child has received the benefits of a good education. This is a very commendable trait of theirs and is in keeping with their general progressive ideas.

The Democratic party has always had the allegiance of Mr. Ashley, and he is a staunch supporter of Democratic principles. He has served as a member of the local school board in both Rock Creek and Capioma townships, and also filled the post of road overseer in Rock Creek township. He is affiliated with the Central Protective Association, and is an all 'round good citizen, who is proud of the fact that he is a Kansas pioneer, and he and Mrs. Ashley have good and just right to be proud of their fine family.

**Francis Marion Starns, Sr.**—It is probable that an interesting volume, entitled "Sixty Years in Kansas," could be written concerning the career of Francis M. Starns, the oldest retired pioneer and veteran of Sabetha, Kans. He was not only a pioneer in the struggle to redeem a wilderness of prairie and make it habitable for mankind, but he was actively engaged in the border warfare and the struggle to make Kansas a free State, and was one of the first in this section of the State to advocate the cause of prohibition, in behalf of which he has been a life long advocate, espousing the cause of prohibition at a time when he incurred the hostility of even his friends and neighbors because of his outspoken tendencies in voicing his convictions.

Francis M. Starns was born at Geneva, Kane county, Illinois, December 1, 1836, and is a son of James and Matilda (Ware) Starns, who were the parents of eight children, six of whom are living, as follows: Eliza, widow of William McBride, Jamestown, Kans.; Francis Marion, the subject of this review; William H., retired Civil war veteran, Ottumwa, Iowa; James F., retired farmer, Sabetha, who was a soldier in the Eighth Kansas infantry; Martha J., widow of John Fletcher, Pomona, Cal.; Milton J., a retired Civil war veteran of Salina, Kans. The other two children of the Starns family died in infancy, and it is a very remarkable fact that there has not been a death among the children of James and Matilda Starns in seventy-five years. James Starns was born in East Tennessee, February 14, 1799, and was a son of William and Abigail (Crabtree) Starns, natives of Carolina and descendants of colonial ancestral stock. James died December 22, 1888. Matilda, his wife, was born near London, Madison county, Ohio, in 1809, and died in 1870. James and his wife came to Kansas and joined Francis M. in 1856, driving across the country via the ox wagon route.

In his younger days, Francis M. Starns followed the trade of brick maker and carpenter. When he was still young his parents moved from Illinois to Indiana, and in 1844, they made a settlement at Ottumwa, Iowa, where he received the major part of his schooling, attending school for about three months of the year. In 1856, he came to Kansas and settled on 160 acres of raw, unbroken prairie land, one and a half miles northeast of Sabetha, in Berwick township, Nemaha county. His parents came to the State during that same year, driving a team of oxen. They built a log cabin, which served as their first home in Kansas, and Francis M. tilled his land until the outbreak of the Civil war and then enrolled as a member of Company D, Eighth Kansas infantry. His greatest battle was at Chickamauga, where he was wounded in the right forearm and incapacitated for duty. He received his honorable discharge from the Union service at Nashville, Tenn., in 1864, and returned to his farm near Sabetha. It is well to remark here that he took part in the border warfare and was detailed by Jim Lane and John Brown for border service in keeping order along the border of Kansas and Missouri and protecting the State from forays of the border ruffians



FRANCIS M. STARNs.



DR. W. G. BOUSE.



and pro-slavery men. In those early days when towns were few and far between, there was not town on the site of Sabetha and his nearest trading point was White Cloud, Kans. Mr. Starns well remembers the famous "grasshopper years" and the hardships incidental to the loss of his crops—but time and patience changed conditions in Kansas and he prospered as the years rolled on, and he tilled his fine farm of 160 acres until his retirement to Sabetha in 1907, at which time he disposed of his acreage at a good price. He is well-to-do and is interested in the Mutual Telephone Company of Sabetha.

Mr. Starns has been three times married. His first marriage was in 1857, with Eugenie Archer, of Pontiac, Ill., and who died in 1858. His second marriage was in 1859, when he married Isa J. Vassar, born in Gentry county, Missouri, February 21, 1840, and died August 13, 1908. Seven children blessed this union, as follows: Mrs. Alice E. Haigh, Baldwin, Kans.; John F., a carpenter living at Fremont, Neb.; Mrs. Mary Bird, Sabetha, Kans.; Martha, wife of E. P. Buck, deceased; Francis M., Jr., a blacksmith and auto dealer, Oneida, Kans.; Ada, deceased; Nellie E., wife of B. Roberts, a carpenter. On September 1, 1909, at Colorado Springs, Colo., he married Mary E. Offutt, born in Montgomery county, Maryland, August 17, 1845, and who came to Holt county, Missouri, with her parents when six years old. She attended the normal school at Peru, Neb., and the Oregon, Mo., Normal College, and taught in the district schools of Missouri for ten years.

Mr. Starns is a Prohibitionist in politics. Since 1884 he has been a sincere and active advocate of prohibition, and was one of the original prohibition men of Kansas. When he first advocated and talked in favor of prohibition among his Methodist Church brethren, his fellow members were not ready to adopt his views regarding the matter. He is a strict prohibitionist and has lived to see the cause which he has so consistently advocated during many long years gain ground year after year and has seen its spread and adoption in many States, cities and counties of the Union, and is hoping that the Almighty will spare him long enough to see his beloved cause a nation-wide affair and adopted by a national vote of all the people of the country.

**Dr. William G. Bouse.**—Among the professional men of Centralia, Kans., few stand higher in the esteem of the community or higher in their profession than Dr. William G. Bouse, general physician and surgeon for the Missouri Pacific Railway Company. He enjoys in addition the large practice to which he is entitled by virtue of his medical and surgical skill.

Dr. Bouse was born December 27, 1876, in Lewis county, West Virginia, and is the son of Jesse S. and Amy (Clark) Bouse, to whom six children were born, one of whom is now dead, and of whom Dr. Bouse was the fourth child. His father was born in West Virginia in 1842. From 1862 to 1865, he was enlisted in the Union service under General Sheridan, serving in the cavalry. He fought valiantly for three

years without being wounded. In 1880 he came to Whiting, Kans., where he farmed ten years, and then he moved to Holton, Kans., where he died in 1900. Jesse S. Bouse was the son of Jesse S. and Jennie (Nelson) Bouse, both natives of Virginia. The family is of German origin. Dr. Bouse's mother was born in West Virginia in 1846, and is now living with Dr. Bouse.

Dr. Bouse resided on a farm in Jackson county, Kansas, and attended district school until he was nineteen years old. He then worked as a farm hand at \$18 a month. In 1897 he went to Camden University, where he pursued a teacher's course. He taught school from 1899 until 1902, and then entered the medical college at Topeka, where he was graduated in 1906. The same year he went to Bancroft, Kans., and began his medical practice. Nine months later he moved to Wetmore, Kans., and in 1909, he moved to Centralia, where he has built up a large and remunerative practice. He owns a fine modern residence and office in Centralia. In 1905 he was married to Mary C. Nichols, who was born in 1881 at Holton, Kans. They have two children, Mary M., aged seven, and Alice E., aged three years. Mrs. Bouse was a teacher of art at one time and her exhibitions attracted wide and favorable attention among art lovers. She is the daughter of Raphael Angelo and Alice (Little) Nichols. Her father was born in Illinois and was a jeweler. The mother was born in Indiana and is still living in her native State.

Dr. Bouse is a member of these lodges: Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Modern Woodmen of America, Ancient Order of United Workmen and Knights and Ladies of Security. He is a Republican, but is not especially active in politics, as his medical practice keeps him very busy. There are few more skillful physicians and surgeons than Dr. Bouse and he has justly been prosperous because of his genius in the medical profession.

**William Smith.**—The late William Smith, of Sabetha, was a very useful citizen who not only accomplished a great deal of good in behalf of his fellow citizens while a resident of this earthly habitation of ours, but he provided well for his family. He was a useful man in many ways; keenly interested in advancing the cause of better farming methods and improving the live stock of the neighborhood. He engaged in breeding of pure bred swine and achieved a great success in the venture; as a township official he was a great success, although an independent in politics and outspoken in his convictions. His honesty and integrity were proverbial and won him the respect and esteem of all his acquaintances. Even after his retirement from active farm work he worked in behalf of the cause of education and became prominent in civic affairs in Sabetha.

William Smith was born at Galva, Ill., December 15, 1864, and was a son of John and Sarah (Lafferty) Smith, natives of Scotland and Ireland, respectively. His father immigrated from Scotland when a young man and after a residence of some years in Illinois he came west in

1858 and made a settlement in Capioma township, Nemaha county, Kansas, at a time when it was possible to pre-empt government land. He hauled cottonwood lumber for his house building from Atchison. This home stood for forty-five years and was burned in 1915. John Smith prospered in Kansas and was a live stock man who specialized in hogs. He became quite wealthy and was a large land owner before his demise, which occurred November 26, 1903.

William Johnson, who became prominent in Nemaha county, accompanied Mr. Smith to Kansas in search of a homestead.

William Smith was six years of age when his parents came to Nemaha county and he was reared to young manhood on the home farm in Capioma township. He attended Campbell College at Holton, Kans., after completing the course in the district schools and was considered to be a well read man. On his wedding day he received a gift of eighty acres of land which formed the nucleus for his large farm of 320 acres which he accumulated with years of hard work and good management on his and his wife's part. For several years he was engaged in breeding Poland China swine, which he exhibited at different county fairs and live stock shows with fair success.

He followed active farming pursuits until 1907 and then retired to a comfortable home in Sabetha, Kans., so that his children would receive the advantages of a good school education such as is afforded by the Sabetha graded schools. Mr. Smith died in the Sabetha Hospital November 26, 1911.

This departed pioneer was married March 5, 1889, to Miss Ida Lahr, born in Macon county, Missouri, and who bore him three children, as follows: Helen, born September 12, 1892, a graduate of Sabetha High School, class of 1911; Raymond, born February 9, 1896, attending Gem City Business College at Quincy, Ill.; Lila, born August 28, 1899. Mrs. Ida Smith, widow of William Smith, was born February 9, 1869, and is a daughter of Paul and Mary (Johnson) Lahr. Paul Lahr, her father, was born in Union county, Pennsylvania, March 1, 1839, and immigrated to Miller county, Missouri, before the Civil war in 1859, but was forced to leave the State on account of the activities of the border ruffians and slave advocates in 1861. He returned to his home in Illinois where his parents had removed from Pennsylvania and enlisted in the Union army August 3, 1862. He became a member of Company D, which was made up of Stephenson county men, and mustered in at Dakota, Ill., and formed a component part of the Ninety-third Illinois infantry. He served faithfully with his regiment during the course of the war and afterward farmed in Illinois for some time previous to his return to Missouri in 1866, where he had a farm in Miller county of 120 acres. In February, 1866, he went to Macon county, Missouri. In 1869, he returned to Illinois. Mr. Lahr left Illinois in 1883, and came to Kansas for the purpose of purchasing a farm in Capioma township, where he lived until his retirement to Sabetha in 1893. Mr. Lahr was

married in 1865 to Mary Johnson, born in Center county, Pennsylvania, July 7, 1844, a daughter of James and Elizabeth (Smith) Johnson. On the fifth day of October, 1915, Mr. and Mrs. Lahr celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

The late William Smith was an independent voter, but he took an active part in civic affairs and served as trustee of Capioma township for eight years and during his residence in Sabetha was a member of the school board which had charge of the erection of the school building. He was affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and always took an active part in community affairs. He was a member and official of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mrs. Ida Smith is a capable business woman who is caring for the Smith estate in an efficient manner. She erected a fine, modern home of seven rooms on the farm in 1915 and closely oversees the farming operations. She is a member and worker of the Methodist Episcopal church, as are all of her children. Mrs. Smith is affiliated with the Eastern Star and Royal Neighbors and takes an active part in social affairs in Sabetha.

**Samuel W. McClain**, well-to-do farmer of Rock Creek township, was born in Ireland, December 26, 1856, and is a son of Archibald and Jennie (Wills) McClain, who were born and reared in Country Antrim, Ireland, and were of Scotch descent. Archibald McClain, his father, was born in 1817, and emigrated from Ireland with his family in 1857. He settled in Pennsylvania, and was employed in the iron works of that State for a number of years until his migration to Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1877. For the first few years in Kansas, he rented land and then bought 160 acres on section 31, Rock Creek township, which is the present home place of his sons and daughters. He prospered, built up an attractive farm home, and died on his homestead in 1895. His wife followed him to the great beyond in 1910, aged eighty-three years.

Samuel W. McClain has spent all of his life in Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, where he attended school, and in Nemaha county, with the exception of one and a half years, and was reared to young manhood on the McClain homestead. He made his first purchase of land in 1894, and now owns 240 acres in partnership with his brother, Laughlin McClain. The McClain brothers are excellent farmers, and are well-to-do. They raise considerable live stock of a good breed and are industrious and hard working.

The children of Archibald and Jennie McClain are as follows: Samuel W., subject of this review; Laughlin, who is farming in partnership with his brother; Archibald, deceased; William, a farmer; Catharine, housekeeper for her three brothers, who live on the McClain homestead; Rev. John E. McClain, pastor of the Congregational Church, at Sheldon, Iowa.

The parents of the McClain boys were members of the Episcopalian church, but the sons and daughter are affiliated with the Congregational church. The example set the McClain children by their parents



in living clean, industrious lives has been carefully emulated with the result that the brothers and sister work in harmony for their common good. Unlike many Kansas pioneers, they had very few hardships when they settled in Nemaha county and the family have always been contented and happy in the beautiful country home erected by their father, who was a man of good address and education. The McClains come of excellent Scotch-Irish stock whose forbears emigrated from Scotland to the north of Ireland to escape religious persecution a few centuries ago. Samuel McClain and his brothers are well respected in their neighborhood for their industry and honesty and upright demeanor.

**Albert F. Trask**, retired farmer of Rock Creek township, was born in Wayne county, New York, December 5, 1846, and is a son of Barzillai and Rhoda (Sprague) Trask, who were the parents of seven children, of whom Albert F. is the only survivor. Barzillai Trask, his father, was born near Lynn, Mass., July 3, 1809, and was a stone and brick mason during his whole life. When he moved from his native State he settled at Jackson, Mich., and there plied his trade and reared his family, after a residence of some years in New York previous to his removal to Michigan. He died at his home in Jackson county, Michigan, in 1871. The mother of the subject of this review was born at Lynn, Mass., in 1818, and died in 1850. After all of his children were grown and able to take care of themselves the elder Trask married the second time.

Albert F. Trask remained at the parental home until he attained his majority and then followed any honest labor he could find and plied his trade of stone and brick mason which had been taught to him by his father. When the Civil war broke out his patriotism called upon him to enlist in behalf of the Union and he tried six different times to become enrolled in the Union army, but was rejected because of a defective arm. However, he managed to serve for three months in the Michigan State militia during the war—but it has been a matter of sincere regret to Mr. Trask that he was not allowed to fight in behalf of his country when it was in danger of dissolution. While a youth, Mr. Trask had been accidentally shot through the left arm and while the wound did not incapacitate him from doing hard labor the Union authorities would not accept his services because of the blemish. He plied his trade of mason in Michigan and Iowa and in 1872 he migrated to Nemaha county, Kansas. For some years he worked at his trade and farmed in Capioma township, and after his father's death he returned home to assist in straightening out the affairs of the family and settling his father's estate and did not return to Kansas until 1891. Upon his return here he rented land in Capioma township and in 1900 made his first investment in eighty acres of land in section 32 of Rock Creek township. He has built up a good home on this tract and has it well improved. In the course of time Mr. Trask added another eighty to his holdings and has become fairly well-to-do. Of late years he has

retired from active farm work and spends the greater portion of his time among his children. During the summer of 1916 he made an extended visit among his children who are located in the Far West.

Mr. Trask was united in marriage with Miss Emily Carlisle in 1870. Mrs. Trask was born in Illinois and died February 27, 1872. Two children were born of this marriage, namely: Rhoda Ann Sprague, died at the age of nine months; Mrs. Rena May Oxley, whose husband is a printer and located at Battle Creek, Mich. Mrs. Rena May Oxley has four children, as follows: Clyde, Marie, Ruby and Doris. Clyde Oxley, her eldest son, is married and has a daughter, Mildred Mae, thus making four generations in the Trask family, beginning with Albert F. Trask, great-grandfather of Mildred Mae Oxley. Mr. Trask was again married in 1874 to Harriet A. Penny, who was born April 20, 1841, at Southampton, N. Y., and who came to Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1872. She died March 25, 1912, leaving four children, as follows: Frank E., managing the Trask home place; Charles, married Jessie House and has one child, Charles William, and resides at Scotia, Wash.; Harold, married Florence Jacobs, and has three children, Harriet, Albert and Mildred, and lives at Agatha, Idaho; William, on the home place, married Belle Lindquist, who was born at Belleville, Kans., and has one child, Marceta Valentine.

For twenty years Mr. Trask has voted the prohibition ticket and has lived up to his convictions in the matter of temperance. He is a kindly gentleman who has lived an industrious and peaceful life and who is fond of his children and grandchildren. Mr. Trask is highly esteemed in his home neighborhood and has many friends who appreciate his many excellent qualities.

**James Tomlinson.**—Thirty-four years ago, James Tomlinson, merchant and land owner of Corning, Kans., made his start as a farmer by the purchase of eighty acres of land two miles east of Corning, with a cash capital of fifty dollars which he had saved by practicing the most rigid economy. The ensuing years witnessed his success, and he became owner of 480 acres in Harrison and Reilly townships. After achieving a success in farming, he became a merchant and invested in the hardware business at Corning in 1900. His large store buildings are well stocked with furniture, implements and hardware, and the Tomlinson store enjoys an extensive trade among the people of Corning and surrounding territory.

James Tomlinson was born on a farm in York county, Ontario, Canada, November 25, 1853, and is a son of John W. and Sophia (Thompson) Tomlinson, who were the parents of eleven children. John W. Tomlinson, his father, was born in Ontario, lived all of his life in his native country, and died in 1860, at the age of forty-eight years. He was a son of Joseph Tomlinson, a son of Welsh emigrants, born in Pennsylvania, and who was an Empire Loyalist during the rebellion of the Canadian provinces in 1837. He immigrated to Canada in 1812 and, during

the Rebellion, was an assistant to a gentleman in charge of the propaganda agitated toward making Canada a part of the United States. His parents were natives of Wales. The mother of James Tomlinson died in Huron county, Michigan, in 1904, aged seventy-nine years. She left her old Canadian home in 1885, and settled in Michigan.

James Tomlinson was reared on a farm in Canada until he was seventeen years old. He then learned the trade of carpenter, and followed this trade for ten years. In 1875, he moved to Mercer county, Illinois, and worked at his trade there, and also farmed until his migration to Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1880. For two years, he followed his trade at Wetmore, Kans., and then moved to an eighty acre farm two miles east of Corning, which he purchased with a small cash payment, and paid for in due time with hard work and good management. So successful was Mr. Tomlinson's farming operations that he became owner of 480 acres of land in Harrison and Reilly townships, which he cultivated until 1900. In that year he sold out all of his land, and bought a partnership in a hardware store in Corning with W. J. Glenn. In 1902 he bought out his partner's interest, and he has since been managing the store. Mr. Tomlinson is also owner of eighty acres of land in Nemaha county, and has a large tract of 480 acres in Texas.

He was married October 19, 1877, at Davenport, Iowa, to Miss Sarah S. McCullough, and to this union have been born twelve children, as follows: Anna G., wife of R. E. Harris, living on a farm in Harrison township; John, is operating a lunch and confectionery store in Corning; Nellie S., a graduate of Corning High School and business college of Kansas City, and is now employed as a stenographer in Kansas City, Mo.; Jessie May, wife of Alfred Molineaux, a farmer living near Goff; Mabel, wife of Harry Whistler, floor walker for a large packing plant in Kansas City, Kans.; Clyde, at home and assisting in the store, is married to Emma Neighbors of Seneca; James L., assistant cashier of the State Exchange Bank of Atchison, Kans.; Orville J., deputy postmaster of Corning, Kans.; Bethel, Denise, and Marguerite, at home; Eunice, wife of Robert Harris, Hill City, Mo. The mother of this large and interesting family was born at Ardray, Scotland, May 24, 1860, and is a daughter of Robert and Mary McCullough, who emigrated from their native land in 1869, and settled in Ohio where Robert McCullough followed coal mining until his removal to Illinois in 1874, where he also worked in the coal mines until his death in 1880, at the age of sixty-eight years. Mrs. Tomlinson's mother died in 1906, aged seventy-two years.

Mr. Tomlinson is an independent or progressive Republican, and has served as trustee of Reilly township. He was elected a member of the Corning town council in 1904, and has served continuously as a valued and active member of that body for the past twelve years. He is a member and trustee of the Methodist Episcopal church, and is assistant Sunday school superintendent. Mr. Tomlinson is affiliated fraternally with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Independent Order of

Odd Fellows and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. His life and activities have been those of a useful and enterprising citizen, who is continually striving to do his duty by his family, his fellow men and his home city.

**John P. Dam.**—The little kingdom of Denmark has contributed many hundreds of substantial citizens to the State of Kansas, who are noted for their industry and integrity of purpose. A few of the natives of the Danish kingdom have made settlement in Nemaha county, and have achieved individual successes which are striking and notable. No people are quicker to assimilate American ways and adapt themselves to their surroundings than those of Danish birth, and wherever you find one of that persuasion who has settled on the soil of the West, there you find an agricultural plant operated upon the most advanced lines. John P. Dam, farmer and breeder of Illinois township, has become noted for the pure bred Holsteins which are produced on his farm and he has worked his way upward from poverty to become a well-to-do citizen of his adopted county.

Mr. Dam was born in Denmark, August 1, 1859, and is a son of Per and Johanna (Holm) Dam, the former of whom was born April 17, 1830, and became a teamster in his native country. In his younger days, he was an adventurous gold miner in the far off land of Australia. He died in Denmark in 1870. John P. Dam's mother was born in 1835, and died in the land of her nativity in 1869.

John P. Dam learned the miller's trade in Denmark, and immigrated to Rochelle, Ogle county, Illinois, in 1877. He worked for two years as a farm hand, and then migrated to Nemaha county, Kansas, and bought eighty acres of his present farm in section 34 of Illinois township. He paid \$6 per acre for his land, and put up a small shack 12x14 feet, in which he lived during his first four years, while trying to make ends meet on the farm, and pay for his land. His first barn was built of forked timbers stuck upright in the ground and overlaid with poles cut from the timber and which were covered with grass. This makeshift sufficed for some time as a shelter for his live stock. Mr. Dam set out trees and shrubbery for the purpose of beautifying his home surroundings, and in time, erected better buildings to take the place of his first rude shelters. He has added to his acreage, until he now has a quarter section of land well improved. For some years he has been breeding Holstein cattle, and is owner of the best pedigreed bull in Nemaha county. He maintains a successful dairy which adds materially to his income, and keeps the Poland China breed of swine.

Mr. Dam was married at Centralia, Kans., to Theodora Nelson on July 3, 1887. Mrs. Dam was born in Schleswig, Denmark, December 21, 1857. She accompanied her brother, Peter Nelson, to Centralia, Kans., in 1880, and made her home with a sister Mrs. A. H. Hybskmann. Six members of the Nelson family have emigrated from Denmark to this country, and have found good homes in the land of opportunity such as

they had dreamed of in their little country across the seas. One child has been reared by Mr. and Mrs. Dam, namely: Amanda, wife of Dr. J. L. Coles, an osteopath located at Winfield, Kans. Both Dr. and Mrs. Coles were educated at Kirksville, Mo., and graduated from the Osteopath College on June 7, 1915. By a former marriage with Hans Christensen in 1883, Mrs. Dam is the mother of Mrs. Amanda Coles, who was born at Centralia, January 9, 1884. Mrs. Coles is a talented young woman, who was educated primarily in the Corning schools, and decided to become an osteopathic physician when twenty-six years old. She matriculated at the Kirksville College, and there met her future husband. Dr. Coles is a native of London, England, and immigrated to Canada when a young man, and was educated for the ministry in a theological school at Winnipeg, Canada. He preached in the Methodist denominational church for seven years, and made a visit to Corning, Kans., where he became acquainted with the family, of which he is now a member by marriage. The father of Mrs. Coles, Hans Christensen, was born in Denmark, and immigrated to New Jersey in 1875. He later moved westward to Nemaha county, Kansas, and bought an eighty acre farm southwest of Centralia, which he farmed until his early death in 1885. Mrs. Theodora Dam is an estimable woman, who has been hard working and industrious during her whole life. She was left motherless when eight years old, and her father died when she was a young woman of twenty-two.

Mr. Dam is affiliated with the Democratic party, and has served as a member of the district school board. He and Mrs. Dam are valued members of the community, in which they reside, and are well liked and respected by their many friends and acquaintances throughout the country side.

**Adolphus A. Schoonover**, well-to-do farmer and stockman of Illinois township, was born on a farm in Henry county, Illinois. He is a son of Rossiter and Marjorie (Harland) Schoonover, to whom were born eleven children. Rossiter Schoonover, his father, was born at Marietta, Ohio, Washington county, April 11, 1833. He lived in Washington county, Ohio, until 1852, and then moved to Henry county, Illinois, where he purchased a farm and reared his family. He died in Henry county, Illinois, in 1906. The elder Schoonover was of German extraction and was a son of Henry and Eunice (Hopkins) Schoonover, natives of Ohio, and whose parentage was of German origin. Marjorie (Harland) Schoonover, mother of Adolphus A., was born in Peoria county, Illinois, March 7, 1840, and resides at Kewanee, Illinois. She is descended from an old American family which dates back to the sixteenth century and a history of which family has been written and published.

When Adolphus A. Schoonover was twenty-two years old he set out for the western country and stopped at Corning, Kans., on February 16, 1887. He liked the looks of the country and invested his capital in a quarter section of land four miles southeast of Corning in Reilly

township. He improved this farm with a good home and buildings and beautified the surroundings with groves of trees and an orchard. He farmed this tract until 1902 when he rented the land and bought a forty-acre farm within two miles of the old home place, which he also improved. In 1904 he traded his 200 acres for the farm which he is now cultivating in sections 35 and 36 and which comprises 220 acres of good land.

Mr. Schoonover was married at Corning, Kans., July 1, 1890, to Miss Lizzie Earl and seven children have been born of this marriage, as follows: Alice, graduated from Corning High School and now teaching in Washington township; Ross, attending the Bradley Horological School at Peoria, Ill.; Florence, Earl, Raymond, Manford and Bernece. Mrs. Schoonover was born in Laporte county, Indiana, July 23, 1865, and is a daughter of Henry and Sarah (Morley) Earl, natives of Canada and Ohio, respectively. Henry Earl migrated to Kansas in 1869, and made a settlement one mile north of Corning. He died in 1906, past eighty years old. His wife departed this life in 1911, aged eighty-one years. The Earl family drove overland from their old Indiana home to Kansas in a covered wagon which conveyed the family and all of their movable possessions.

Mr. Schoonover is a Republican and he and Mrs. Schoonover are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is connected fraternally with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Schoonover served on the school board of Corning, Kans., from 1906 until 1915, and filled the post of secretary of the board.

**William Bumphrey**, prosperous and enterprising farmer of Illinois township, is a native of Bureau county, Illinois, and was born June 14, 1877. He is a son of Albert and Mary Jane (Fuller) Bumphrey, who were the parents of three children, as follows: Mrs. Lena (Tripp) McMann, wife of a minister of the gospel in Oklahoma; Mrs. Della Holslander, living in Osborn county, Kans.; William, subject of this review.

Albert Bumphrey, his father, was born in Henry county, Illinois, May 3, 1853, and lived in his native county until 1881, at which time he disposed of his property in Henry county and bought the farm now operated by his son in section 33, Illinois township, this county. The Bumphrey tract was unimproved at the time of purchase by Albert Bumphrey and he placed needed improvements thereon, farmed the tract for a few years and then removed to Corning, Kans., his present place of residence. He has been three times married. The mother of William Bumphrey was born in Virginia, in 1851, and departed this life in 1883.

William Bumphrey was a boy of four years when the family came to Nemaha county and he received his education in the district schools of the neighborhood. He naturally followed in the footsteps of his

parent and became a farmer. Previous to renting the home farm he worked as farm hand for three years and on his own account. He has become owner of eighty acres of land and is cultivating 160 acres in all, eighty acres of which are planted to corn this year (1916). Mr. Bumphrey is branching out and departing from old methods of farming and is venturing into the breeding of fine Shorthorn cattle.

He and Mrs. Bumphrey specialize in Plymouth Rock or Barred Rock poultry and are making a success of raising poultry, a department of the farm work which adds a good income to the family exchequer.

Mr. Bumphrey was married to Florence Vantassel on May 20, 1903, and two children have been born of this union, namely: Opal and Eve. Mrs. Bumphrey was born in Louisiana, May 17, 1882, and accompanied her mother to Centralia, Kans., in 1883. Mr. Bumphrey is a Republican in politics and has served as a member of the district school board. He and Mrs. Bumphrey are members of the Methodist church.

**Frank F. Wessel**, farmer and stockman of Illinois township, was born in Oldenburg, Germany, June 14, 1883. Although Mr. Wessel is one of the younger generation of farmers in Nemaha county, he has achieved a striking success, and is owner of a good farm of 160 acres in Illinois township, which is well stocked and has excellent improvements. Nemaha county has hundreds of such men of German birth, whose parents came to this country in search of opportunity and in the hope of bettering their condition, and who succeeded beyond their greatest hopes, in this county. He is a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Mocke) Wessel, both of whom were born and reared in Germany.

Henry Wessel, his father, was born December 24, 1844, and emigrated from his native country to Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1904. He bought a quarter section of land in section 12, Illinois township, and lived thereon until his death, July 24, 1915. He was married in 1872 to Elizabeth Mocke, who was born in 1860, and died in September, 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Wessel were the parents of eleven children, six sons, and five daughters, all of whom are living in Nemaha county and are comfortably situated.

Frank F. Wessel, with whose career this review is directly concerned, left his native country and immigrated to America in 1902. He first settled at Seneca, Kans., and worked out as farm hand for three years. He then began working for his father, and tilled the home place until his father's death. Mr. Wessel bought the home farm from his father, some time previous to his father's death.

Mr. Wessel was married to Miss Lizzie Macke, on May 20, 1908. They have two children, as follows: Henry, and Mary. Another child died in infancy. Mrs. Wessel was born in the St. Benedict neighborhood of Nemaha county, May 20, 1884, and is a daughter of Frank and Berneadina (Wietham) Macke, both of whom were natives of Germany, where Frank Macke was born January 29, 1847. He came to Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1878 and, during his second year of residence here, he bought



eighty acres of land in Marion township. At the time of his death, September 2, 1908, he owned 240 acres in all. Mrs. Wessel's mother was born February 4, 1851, and is now making her home among her children. Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Macke, five of whom are living and seven of whom were born in this county.

Since coming into possession of the home farm, Mr. Wessel has made some substantial improvements on his tract, one of which is a good barn. He raises good crops, and is industrious and enterprising to such an extent that it is easily predicted that he is just at the initial beginning of his accomplishments. He and Mrs. Wessel are members of the Catholic church. Mr. Wessel is an independent Democrat in political matters.

**William H. Donald.**—William H. Donald, farmer and stockman of Illinois township, was born on the farm which he is now managing, August 21, 1874. He is therefore, a native-born pioneer and a son of pioneer parents who made a settlement in Nemaha county in 1871. His father was George Donald, born in Scotland, March 27, 1842, and was brought to America by his parents when an infant and was reared to manhood in Michigan, where the Donald family settled. He grew up in the lumber camps of Michigan and followed lumbering and wood chopping for five years previous to migrating to Nemaha county in 1871. When he arrived here in this county he bought a homestead of eighty acres in section 32 of Illinois township. The first Donald home, which is still standing, was built of lumber hauled from Atchison, Kans., and is sixteen by twenty-four feet and a story and a half in height. With thorough industry and true Scottish thrift George Donald achieved a striking success in his adopted State and became a large land owner. His possessions included 800 acres of tillable land in Nemaha and Pottawatomie counties. He made the greater part of his wealth in raising and feeding large herds of cattle and droves of hogs on a considerable scale and invested his surplus earnings each year in land. Evidently Mr. Donald foresaw the inevitable rise in land values and builded better for the future than he knew. The estate is still held intact and is in charge of William H. Donald, subject of this review. Mr. Donald died in 1911. He was married in 1871 to Christy Black, who bore him five children, as follows: James, lives at Great Bend, Kans.; William H., with whom this review intimately concerns; Flora, wife of Prof. Henry Loudonback, head of the Loudonback School of Music, Atchison, Kans.; John, a farmer of Illinois township; Mrs. Margaret Nightingale, Illinois township. The mother of the foregoing children was born in Canada, December, 1847, and died December 14, 1915. Mr. and Mrs. Donald were a worthy and highly respected couple who are deserving of a place of honor and respect in the annals of the county in which they played such a material part in upbuilding and to which they contributed a fine family of children.

William H. Donald was reared on the Donald home place and was



educated in the district school and the Corning public schools. He has followed in his father's footsteps as an industrious and upright citizen and it devolved upon him to take charge of his father's estate upon his demise. Mr. Donald is farming 320 acres of land on his own account, 120 acres of which are planted to corn this year (1916). He is independent in politics and is a wideawake and well read and intelligent citizen who enjoys the respect and esteem of many friends and acquaintances.

**George Ronnebaum**, a deservedly popular young farmer of Gilman township, was born on a farm in Gilman township, November 9, 1887, and is a son of Bernard and Bernedina (Fienhage) Ronnebaum, who were natives of Germany, and were parents of the following children: Dr. Henry, deceased physician of Seneca, Kans.; Bernard, a farmer of Richmond township; Joseph, a farmer of Mitchell township; Elizabeth, a teacher in the parochial schools at Horton, Kans., and who was educated at Mt. St. Scholastica's Academy, Atchison, Kans.; Frank, deceased; John, an automobile machinist at Seneca, Kans.; George, subject of this review; Mrs. Catharine Becker, Mitchell township; Mary, wife of Joseph Stillman, deceased; August, a farmer in Richmond township. All of the foregoing children are well educated, and are well-to-do. Bernard Ronnebaum, the father, was born at Oldenburg, Germany, in 1842, and for seventeen years previous to coming to America, he was a sailor on the high seas. He immigrated to this country in 1876, and settled in Nemaha county, Kansas. For the first two years of his residence here, he worked out as a farm hand, and then rented land for a few years. He eventually bought 120 acres in section 17, Gilman township, and improved it with good buildings. He farmed this tract until 1896, and then moved to another farm, which he owned north of Seneca, and lived there until his death in 1911. He became owner of 560 acres of land in Nemaha county. Mrs. Ronnebaum was born in 1856, and resides on the farm with her children.

George Ronnebaum was reared on his father's farm, and is, at present, operating the old home place in Gilman township. He received his education in district No. 99 of Gilman township, and began doing for himself when he was a young man. He was married January 25, 1910, to Elizabeth Dalsing, who has borne him three children, namely: Clarence, born April 26, 1911; Robert, born October 9, 1912; Edwin, born March 15, 1914.

Mrs. Elizabeth Ronnebaum was born at Independence, Kans., May 24, 1890, and is a daughter of John and Mary (Dietering) Dalsing. Her father, John Dalsing, was born in Wisconsin, in June, 1857, and was a son of German emigrants. John Dalsing and Mary Dietering were married at Independence, Kans., in January, 1882. They lived for a year in Ohio, but have spent the greater part of their married lives at Independence, where they own 300 acres in the gas and oil section. When they first started out in wedded life, they had a very hard time of making ends meet, and owned but one team of oxen, and lived in a one-room log house

in Montgomery county, Kansas. At this time they are prosperous and fairly well-to-do. There are three producing gas and oil wells on their farm, and they burn gas in the home. Thirteen children have been born to them, ten daughters and three sons, of whom Tillie died September 6, 1903. Four daughters are married, namely, Mrs. Joseph Ronnebaum, Mrs. Louis Hasenkamp, Mrs. Joseph Hasenkamp, and Mrs. Walter Reiting. Mrs. Mary Dalsing was born at Ottawa, Ohio, in August, 1861.

Mr. Ronnebaum is a Democrat in politics, and at present time, is a candidate for the nomination of sheriff on the Democratic county ticket.

**John A. and William T. Long.**—In a little over twenty years the Long brothers, John A. and William T., have become owners of 200 acres of land in Illinois township, which they cultivate in congenial partnership. They began with no capital whatever but their young strength and a determination to get ahead in the world—essentials, which, after all, are the best possessions with which one must be equipped in order to make a success of any undertaking. When John A. Long, the elder brother, came west in search of fortune twenty-eight years ago, his cash capital was just twenty-five cents when he landed at Effingham, Kans. He was homesick also, and did not like the looks of the country, which in its treeless condition was a striking contrast to his far-away home in Pennsylvania. He thought that the "honey pond" for which he had been searching in the western country was just a ways beyond and he followed the westward pathway to Colorado after two years spent as a farm hand, but eventually returned to Kansas as the best spot to make his future home, after all.

John A. Long was born April 26, 1866, in Perry county, Pennsylvania. He is a son of Jacob and Anna (Hostetter) Long, who were the parents of ten children, all of whom are living. Jacob Long, his father, was born on the Long homestead in Perry county, Pennsylvania, in 1840 and died in 1908. He operated a saw mill run by water power until the outbreak of the Civil war when he enlisted in the Tenth Pennsylvania cavalry regiment and saw service in the army of Gen. W. T. Sherman as teamster of supply trains. After the war he again resumed his milling operations until his demise. Jacob was a son of Abraham and Margaret (O'Donnell) Long, natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio, respectively. The mother of John A. and William T. Long was born in Perry county, Pennsylvania, on April 4, 1844, and died in January, 1916. She was a daughter of George Hostetter, a native of Germany, who married a Miss Rivers.

William Thomas Long, the younger brother, was born in Pennsylvania, February 28, 1870, and came to Kansas with his brother on the second trip made by John A. He lived in Atchison county until 1897 when he joined his brother on the Nemaha county farm. John A. Long left the old home in Pennsylvania in 1888 and settled in Atchison county, Kansas, where he was employed as farm hand for two years and then went further west to Colorado and worked in that State for a time and

returned home. Upon his second trip to Kansas some time later he was accompanied by his brother, William Thomas. The boys worked for a time in Atchison county, and John A. made another trip to Colorado and worked there for three years. He returned to Kansas in 1894 and bought an eighty-acre tract in Illinois township, Nemaha county, with his savings. He was joined by William T. in 1897 and the boys have made a great success of their farming venture. Both brothers vote the Republican ticket and are members of the Kelly Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

**Edwin Broadbent**, farmer and stockman, of Illinois township, was born on the farm where he now resides, October 9, 1885. He is a son of Valentine and Marion (Walters) Broadbent, who were the parents of four children, as follows: William, a farmer in Red Vermillion township, and owner of a quarter section of good land; Bertha, wife of Arthur Tinklin, a farmer of Harrison township; Edwin, subject of this review; Ralph, who is deceased.

Valentine Broadbent, father of the foregoing children, was born in England, September 30, 1854, near the city of Halifax. He was left an orphan at the early age of thirteen years and then immigrated to America with his uncle, Robert Broadbent, who settled near Kewanee, Ill. As he grew up, he became a farmer and worked on his uncle's farm and the neighboring farms until he came to Kansas in March of 1882. He bought the home place of the Broadbent family, consisting of 160 acres in Illinois township, Nemaha county, for which he paid \$3 per acre. His means were limited as were those of practically the greater number of Nemaha county pioneers, and for the first years of the residence of the family in this county, the Broadbent home consisted of a small one room dwelling, 12x16 feet in size. In this small house, the family were reared, and he and his good wife carried on the hard struggle to found a home in the newer country. This section of Nemaha county was thinly settled in those days, and houses were few and far between. Many days and months were lonesome ones for the young wife and mother, and the first few years were replete with hardships which they bore with fortitude. As time went on and the children grew up able and willing to bear some of the burdens which the parents had carried in their behalf, Valentine Broadbent prospered and the little one-room shack gave way to a better and larger residence. The shade and fruit trees grew large and tall, and transformed the barren aspect of the prairie homestead. The small cluster of make shift farm buildings were replaced with substantial structures, and the Broadbent acres became increasingly productive. Mr. Broadbent remained in active charge of the farm until 1910, at which time he retired, turned over the farm to his son and has spent his time among his children, who have all become substantial and well respected members of the county. Mr. Broadbent was married in Illinois to Marion Walters, who was born in Ohio, December 8, 1862, and was reared in Iowa county, where her parents removed when she was but a child.

Mrs. Broadbent died in 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Broadbent were devout Methodists, and assisted in building the Corning Methodist Church. Mr. Broadbent is still active and influential in the affairs of this church, and the effect of his upright and moral life has been a power for good in his community.

Edwin Broadbent received his education in district school No. 105; and has always lived on the Broadbent home place, which he is renting from his father, who owns the tract of 240 acres which he is cultivating. Mr. Broadbent is a breeder of Shorthorn cattle, a departure in animal husbandry which he began in 1914. He also maintains a drove of high grade Percheron horses.

He was married February 11, 1910, to Miss Florence Tinklin, who was born in Illinois township, March 12, 1891, and is a daughter of George and Louise (Godfrey) Tinklin, who were natives of England and early settlers in Nemaha county. Mrs. Broadbent is a graduate of the Corning High School. Two children have been born to this marriage, namely: Edith, born March 13, 1912; Mildred, born April 19, 1915.

Mr. and Mrs. Broadbent are members of the Methodist church, and contribute of their means to the support of this denomination. Mr. Broadbent is an uncompromising Democrat who believes thoroughly in Democratic principles of government and votes as he believes. He has filled the office of township clerk of his township, and is interested in politics. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

**Albert L. Austin**, pioneer and Union veteran employee, was born on a farm in Dodge county, Wisconsin, April 22, 1847, and is a son of Moses T. and Catharine (Hathaway) Austin, who were the parents of three children. Moses Austin, his father, died when Albert L. was six years old, and three children were thus left fatherless, namely: Albert L., the subject of this review; Allen M., a resident of Spokane, Wash.; a daughter, Edwinah, died in infancy. The mother of these children was again married to Charles Genung, and one child was born to this marriage, namely: Mrs. Carrie Fowel, a widow living in Washington.

Mr. Austin began learning the blacksmith's trade when fourteen years old, and three years later he enlisted as a blacksmith in the Union service and served the Federal Government throughout the war. While not an active participant in the great battles of the rebellion, he witnessed many of them while performing his very useful services as a blacksmith. He was present with the army of General Thomas at Nashville, Tenn., and witnessed the great battle, which resulted in the rout of General Hood's army. After the close of the war he returned to his mother's home in Wisconsin and followed farming and smithing until 1872. In that year he came to Nemaha county and opened a blacksmith shop in Sabetha, where he wielded his sledge and hammer for twenty-five years, years which were prosperous. So well did his hard work reward him that he determined to go back to the land and in 1900 he sold out his shop and moved to his nice farm in section 14, Rock Creek township, which he had purchased in 1875.



ALBERT L. AUSTIN.



MRS. A. L. AUSTIN AND GRANDSON,  
THOMAS VERNON AUSTIN.



It is self-evident that Mr. Austin is a natural born farmer, for he has succeeded in increasing his acreage to the large total of 360 acres of land. Of late years he has turned over the cultivation of his farm to his son, Paul, and is living a contented and peaceful life, replete with the satisfaction of the knowledge of a life well spent in behalf of his county and family.

Mr. Austin was married in Wisconsin in 1868 to Ellen Fisher, who was born in New York State, March 31, 1848. Mr. and Mrs. Austin have had the following children born to them: Mrs. Katharine Hopkins, Seattle, Wash.; Thomas V., North Platte, Neb.; Paul, at home. The mother of these children is a daughter of Samuel and Betsie (Tremper) Fisher, natives of New York State, where both were born and reared, removing to Wisconsin in 1849.

The Progressive wing of the Republican party has the support and allegiance of Mr. Austin, and he believes in a good and honest government, administered in the interests of all the people. While a resident of Sabetha he took an active and influential part in civic matters and served as a member of the city council, filled the post of school trustee and was city treasurer for some years. He is an all-round good citizen. He is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

**Charles J. Watkins.**—"Maple Hill Farm." Charles J. Watkins, farmer and stockman of Illinois township, was born on a farm in Mason county, Illinois, and is a son of James and Lydia (Walters) Watkins, who were the parents of five sons and two daughters. James Watkins, the father, was born in Mason county, Illinois, in 1843, and was a veteran of the Civil war. He enlisted in an Illinois regiment of Union volunteers and served throughout the great rebellion, receiving his honorable discharge when the Confederacy capitulated. He remained in Mason county until 1870 and then came to Kansas and bought a farm in Brown county, upon which he lived until his retirement to a home in Hiawatha in 1893. His wife and the mother of Charles J., was born in Fulton county, Illinois, 1845, and died in Brown county, Kansas, in 1892.

Charles J. Watkins, subject of this review, assisted his father on the home farm in Brown county and attended the district school nearby until he attained his majority. He then rented land in his home county until he was enabled to make a purchase of his first tract in Benton county, Missouri, in 1903. Mr. Watkins has been somewhat of a trader during his time and has bought and sold several farms previous to locating in Nemaha county in 1907. At this time he came to Nemaha county and bought a quarter section in Illinois township, known as the "Maple Hill Farm." He added a good barn to the existing improvements and has generally improved his place since taking possession.

Mr. Watkins was united in marriage with Ida Harmonson in 1893. Two children have been born to this marriage, as follows: Grace, who died in 1893; Claudie, born September 10, 1898, and at home with her parents. Mrs. Watkins was born in Nemaha county, April 8, 1875, and

is a daughter of F. M. and Delilah (Haston) Harmonson, who drove to Kansas from their home via the overland ox-wagon route and later moved to Brown county, where Mrs. Harmonson resides.

The Democratic party generally has the allegiance of Mr. Watkins, but he has never been active in politics beyond working for the success of his party and supporting the party candidates. He is much interested in Masonry and has filled all chairs in the Corning Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and is also affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

**Hubert Clemens.**—Independence of thought and action have been the creed of Hubert Clemens during the thirty years of his residence in Nemaha county, whither he came when a young man to find a home in the growing West. His industry and thrift have enabled him to become the possessor of a fine farm and he has achieved some reputation as a breeder of fine live stock. Mr. Clemens was born at Bittburg, Trier, Germany, November 24, 1866, and is a son of John and Catharine (Hennis) Clemens, to whom two children were born, namely: Mathew, a traveling salesman of Dyersville, Iowa, and Hubert, subject of this review.

John Clemens, his father, was born in Germany in 1822 and followed the trade of butcher for a livelihood. He emigrated from his native land to America and made a settlement at Aurora, Ill., as early as 1867. He first worked as a laborer and then operated a butcher business until his death in 1879. His wife, and mother of Hubert, was born in 1841 in Germany, and departed this life in 1873.

Hubert Clemens began working as a farm hand in order to gain a livelihood for himself when he was still a youth aged eleven years. He worked out by the month on the farms in the vicinity of Aurora, Ill., until 1886. During this time, however, and while he was attaining young manhood, he was obsessed with the idea of going farther westward where land was cheap and obtainable on easy terms, and which could be obtained much easier and at a far less price per acre than in the vicinity of his old home. Land had been steadily advancing in value in Illinois and he decided to leave there and locate in Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1886. For the first two years he worked out and then rented the farm which he now owns, for a year. The second year he rented the F. A. Hulbert farm and then made his home with Mr. Bedsheim, with whom he farmed in partnership for four years. Mr. Clemens carefully saved his earnings with a view to ultimately owning a farm of his own. The first tract which he farmed in the county eventually was placed on sale and he bought the tract of 120 acres in 1900. Even at that day the farm was poorly improved with an old log cabin, evidently built by the first homesteader, and Mr. Clemens replaced it with a more modern home and a barn 28x30 feet in size, which was later supplemented with another barn 28x36 feet in dimensions. Mr. Clemens has out sixty-five acres in corn in 1916 and maintains on



his fertile acres a herd of high-grade Shorthorn cattle and Poland China swine.

He was married to Mary Herbstreith, October 18, 1893. This marriage has been blessed with six children, as follows: Geneva, born September 11, 1894, at Kelly, Kans.; Bryan, was born August 3, 1896; Mathias, was born February 4, 1900; Hazel, was born July 25, 1903; Grace, was born February 28, 1905; Alvin, was born February 27, 1912. Mrs. Clemens was born October 18, 1873, and is a daughter of John Herbstreith, who was born in Guttenberg, Germany, and left there when a young man and settled in Cook county, Illinois. He followed his trade of carpenter there and during his Civil war service was thrown from a horse and seriously injured. His injuries eventually resulted in his death, after years of suffering, on June 8, 1879, at the age of forty-four years. He enlisted August 1, 1861, at St. Louis, in Company E, First Missouri cavalry regiment, of the Union volunteers, and received his honorable discharge from the service at St. Louis on September 19, 1864. His wife, Caroline (Holtz) Herbstreith, was born in Germany, January 1, 1829. Her first marriage with Mr. Holtz took place in Germany, and after her immigration to this country she was widowed and married Mr. Herbstreith in Illinois. There were three children in the Herbstreith family, as follows: Mrs. Christina (Schumaker) Quinn, living at Wathena; August, Oneida, Kans., and Mrs. Hubert Clemens. Mrs. Herbstreith makes her home with Mr. and Mrs. Clemens.

Mr. Clemens is an independent voter who is not allied with any political party and votes as his intelligence and comprehension dictates and allows no man to tell him how he should vote or which candidate he should support. He is, therefore, a member of that vast and growing number of American citizens who are not held by the party yoke and do not listen to the dictates of the political bosses and through whom this country is destined to have a better and more representative government in the years to come. Even during the present political campaign the great independent vote is a factor with which the leaders are reckoning and which will turn the tide in favor of the fortunate candidate. He is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America.

**Reuben Elbert Mather.**—The Mather stock farm located in section 20, Illinois township, is widely known for the fine live stock, which is produced thereon. The proprietor of this farm, Reuben Elbert Mather, has made a reputation for himself in Kansas as a breeder of Aberdeen Angus cattle, Duroc Jersey swine and high grade horses. He also specializes in Angora goats. Mr. Mather takes great pride in his fine live stock, and has exhibited the product of his skill very frequently with success at the county fairs and stock exhibits.

Reuben Elbert Mather was born in Will county, Illinois, November 16, 1878, and is a son of Edward and Henrietta (Ballau) Mather, who were the parents of four children, as follows: Reuben Elbert, eldest of

the family and subject of this review; Mrs. Alice Miller, widow living at Centralia, Kans.; James I., a farmer of Illinois township; Minerva, deceased. Edward Mather, the father, was born in New York, August 11, 1848, and came to Illinois with his parents when a boy. When the Civil war broke out, he enlisted in 1862 as a member of a company forming part of an Illinois regiment of volunteers, and fought at the battles of Shiloh and Vicksburg. Much of his service was devoted to scout and outpost duty, and he served until the close of the war. He was well-to-do and a son of wealthy parents, which enabled him to make a trip to Kansas in 1869, and invest in an entire section of land. He removed his family to this tract in Illinois township, Nemaha county, in 1887, at which time he bought more land and accumulated a total of 1,280 acres, which he has since divided among his children. His main object in investing in such a large tract of land was to provide homes and farms for his children, as they grew up and started out in life for themselves. During his second trip to Kansas, he made a stay of some years, and improved his home farm with substantial buildings and fencing and placed the land in cultivation. Two years after his second trip here, his first wife died, and he returned to Illinois for a time, but came again for a permanent stay and engaged in the grain and lumber business at Centralia. Five years later he was married to Cordelia Royce, a native of New York. Mr. and Mrs. Mather now reside at Centralia.

Reuben Elbert Mather was educated in the Centralia schools, and also attended Baldwin University. He has always been a farmer, and was reared to the life of a farmer. Mr. Mather is owner of 320 acres of land, which is considered to be one of the best improved stock farms in Nemaha county. He is a believer in the advantages of having live stock of the purest strains on his farm, and is convinced that it does not pay to keep inferior breeds of cattle or horses on the place. Mr. Mather prides himself rightly on his fine live stock, and has become a specialist in breeding Aberdeen Angus cattle and Duroc Jersey swine, which have been exhibited with success at the county fairs and stock shows. As a diversion he breeds Angora goats.

Mr. Mather was married, in 1891, to Miss Estella Hailey, who has borne him six children, as follows: George E., a farmer living near York, Neb.; Ray A., a resident of Idaho; Ruth E., at home with her parents and who is a graduate of the Centralia High School, and has been a teacher in the public schools; Nettie, died in infancy; May M., and Clara W., at home. Mrs. Estella Mather was born in Henry county, Illinois, May 3, 1871, and is a daughter of William and Lucretia (Barnes) Hailey, natives of Illinois, who made a settlement in Nemaha county in 1887. Mrs. Mather is a graduate of the Centralia schools, and taught in the public schools for three terms.

Mr. Mather is a Democrat politically, and has filled the post of clerk of Illinois township. He is a member of the Congregational church, and takes a decided interest in religious and Sunday school work, being at

the present time the assistant superintendent of the Congregational Sunday school at Centralia. He is affiliated fraternally with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

**William H. Briggs**, farmer and stockman, and owner of 120 acres in Gilman township, was born in Vermilion county, Illinois, February 15, 1860, and is a son of Isaac and Sarah I. (Courtney) Briggs.

Isaac Briggs, his father, was born in West Virginia, in 1832, and in 1853 migrated to Illinois; worked as farm hand for a time, rented land, and in 1872 bought an eighty-acre farm where he resided until his immigration to Kansas in 1880. He bought a half section of land in section 20, Gilman township, Nemaha county, farmed it until 1888, then rented his land and moved to Seneca for one year, returning to the farm in 1889 for another four years, after which he engaged in the lumber business at Oneida, a business which he followed until his demise in 1898. Sarah I, wife of Isaac Briggs, was born in Ohio, September 8, 1836, and her marriage with Mr. Briggs occurred in August, 1855. Nine children were born of this marriage, namely: Jennie., deceased; William H., subject of this review; John, in the lumber business in Summerfield, Kans., has seven children; Mrs. Cora Gilmore, on a farm near Oneida; James, lumberman at Emporia, Kans.; Harry, lumberman at Bunker Hill, Kans.; Mrs. Dora Hanson, Sabetha, Kans.; Mary and Charles, dead; Cora, has three children; James, has three; Harry, seven, and Dora is the mother of one child. Mrs. Isaac Briggs was a genuine old-fashioned mother, who in her younger days operated a spinning wheel and wove all the homespun which she used in making the clothing of her children. She died April 5, 1916.

After the Briggs family located in Kansas, William H. assisted his father for one year and then rented fifty acres from his father on shares and lived at home for five years, and was then enabled to buy eighty acres from his father. He lived on the home place for another five years, and in 1888 he built a four-room cottage for himself and a barn, 28x24 feet in size, together with a granary and buggy shed, and lived on his own land for six years. In 1894 he rented out his land and bought his present farm of 120 acres. One year later he sold his eighty-acre tract, and in 1898 he erected a comfortable seven-room farm dwelling, and has a frame barn, 36x40 feet, erected in 1907. Mr. Briggs keeps about twenty head of cattle, six horses, and seventy-five head of hogs and feeds all of his grain to live stock on his place, often buying feed for his stock. For the past twenty years Mr. Briggs has sold no grain from his farm and consequently his acreage is kept up to a high standard of fertility.

William H. Briggs was married to Alice Meisenheimer, February 15, 1888, and this marriage has resulted in the birth of three children, as follows: Mrs. Erma Benedict, on a farm near Oneida, mother of two children, Mildred G. and Donna; Mrs. Edna Butz, on a farm in Rock Creek township, has one child, Ione; Alfred, student at Baker Univer-

sity, Baldwin, Kans. The mother of these children was born in Clay county, Illinois, December 14, 1859, and was left an orphan by the death of her parents in 1867. She was then reared by Mr. and Mrs. William Price, of Flora, Ill., and lived with them until she came to Kansas in 1882 to reside with her sister, and later worked as domestic in the home of Mrs. Cyrus Shinn until her marriage in 1888. She departed this life in 1910. The second marriage of William H. Briggs occurred August 6, 1914, with Zannah Todd, born December 23, 1863, in Ohio, and a daughter of William and Rosa Todd. Her father, William Todd, was born in England in 1813 and immigrated to this country when a young man and settled in Ohio where he followed agricultural pursuits, dying on his farm in 1890. His wife, Rebecca, was born in England, and died in Ohio, aged sixty-two years. There were ten children born to Mr. and Mrs. Todd, as follows: John, a teacher in Texas; Elizabeth; Sarah; James; Lydia; Joseph, deceased; George, a carpenter at East Liverpool, Ohio; Vance, deceased; Zannah, wife of Mr. Briggs; Mrs. Nancy Peters, Lawnsdale, Colo. Mrs. Briggs was reared on her fathers farm in Ohio, and started to complete a high school course, but later her health failing, she visited a relative in Iowa for eighteen months, and upon her return to Ohio she lived with a sick aunt for one and a half years and after a short period at her parents' home she went west to Nebraska and lived with her sister until 1910. She then went to Emporia, Kans., and resided with a sister and followed nursing. Coming to Oneida in 1912, she nursed Mrs. Sarah Briggs through a serious illness and was married to Mr. Briggs in 1914. She is a member of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Briggs is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and has filled the post of superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal Sunday school at Oneida for the past fourteen years. He is a Republican in politics but has never sought office or political preferment.

**Ai M. Butz**, proprietor of 220 acres of well improved farm lands in Gilman township, was born in Clinton county, Ohio, March 9, 1862, and is a son of Augustus and Sarah (Herley) Butz. Augustus Butz was born in German in 1832, and immigrated to America when a young man, and settled in Clinton county, Ohio, where he farmed until his enlistment in the Eighth Ohio infantry for service in the Union army during the rebellion of the Southern States. He died March 8, 1862, in Missouri, after taking part in the campaign against General Price's army and having been placed on the invalid list on account of disease contracted while on the march. His wife, Sarah, born March 3, 1842, was left with three children, as follows: Mrs. Mary McConkey, Red Cloud, Neb.; Mrs. Minerva Boice, Coyles, Neb.; Ai, subject of this review. In 1863, the widow married Andrew Scouten, and two years later the family moved to Kansas. Mr. Scouten was born in Illinois in 1832, and died in Red Cloud, Neb., in 1900. His first location in Kansas was in Brown county, near Hiawatha, and some time later, he and A. M. Butz bought a quarter section near Oneida, which they farmed together for four years. In 1886 they sold out, and Mr. Scouten moved to Nebraska, where his death occurred in

1900. Seven children were born to this marriage of Sarah Butz and Andrew Scouten, as follows: Elias, a minister and farmer living at Folk, Ark.; Mrs. Emma Birt, wife of a carpenter and contractor at Topeka, Kans.; Edward and Fred, farming in Humboldt county, Nebraska; Louis and Lottie, dead. The mother of this fine family is now living with her daughter in Topeka.

A. M. Butz was three years of age when his parents came to Kansas, and he remained at home until 1883, at which time he and his stepfather bought 160 acres of land near Oneida in partnership. After they disposed of this farm in 1887, he rented eighty acres of land in Marshall county, Kansas, for two years, and in 1888, he bought eighty acres in Gilman township, Nemaha county, which was poorly improved with a small box house 14x18 feet and a straw shed. In 1893, he built an addition to his home and, in the following spring, added another room. In 1894, he built a large poultry house 14x22 feet, and a corn crib 16x18 feet, with a shed. In 1903, he enlarged his residence to a seven room structure. Mr. Butz was an extensive hog and cattle raiser until six years ago, when he abandoned stock raising on account of the hazard attached to it, having lost thirty-four hogs at one time, and twenty-five head at another period. His bad luck with live stock became proverbial with him, and he lost cattle, hogs and horses. His 220 acres are all in cultivation, and he has 150 fine fruit trees. He has three large barns on the place, one of which is 34x38 feet in size and the two others, 28x40 feet.

Mr. Butz was married July 7, 1886, to Mary D. Ott, a daughter of Henry and Minnie (Fisher) Ott. Henry Ott, her father, was born in Germany, in 1833 and when twenty-five years old, immigrated to Illinois and later came to Kansas, and farmed in Nemaha county until his death in 1883. His wife, Minnie, was born in Germany in 1833, and accompanied her husband to America, dying in Kansas in 1908. There were eleven children born to Mr. and Mrs. Ott, as follows: John, Oklahoma; Louis, Illinois; Henry, Oklahoma; Sophia, deceased; William, in creamery business, Seneca; Mrs. Minnie Carter, Hiawatha, Kans.; Fred, deceased; Charles, Sabetha, Kans.; Crist, deceased; Bert, a barber at Kansas City, Mo.; Mary, wife of A. M. Butz. Mrs. Mary Butz was born in Illinois in 1866, and came to Kansas with her parents when one year old. She remained at home with her parents until her marriage. Mrs. Butz is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is affiliated with the Knights and Ladies of Security. Mr. and Mrs. Butz are the parents of eight children, namely: Mrs. Grace Edwards, on a farm near McNeely, S. D.; Ira, a bridge builder of Lawrence, Kans.; Ernest, employed on a farm near Sabetha; Alvin, a farmer, Sabetha, Kans.; Effie, a student in Emporia, Kans., Normal College; Ralph, in Sabetha High School; Glenn and Fern, at home. Mrs. Edwards has one child, Erma. Alvin is the father of a daughter, Ione. Ira Butz is sergeant, U. S. A., on duty at the Mexican border.

Mr. Butz is a Republican who has taken a prominent and active part

in civic and political affairs in Nemaha county; served as trustee of Gilman township from 1908 to 1910; and, for twenty years, he was a member of the school board. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and is affiliated with the Knights and Ladies of Security.

**James E. Funk**, farmer of Gilman township, was born in Nemaha county, Kansas, April 30, 1872, and is a son of John N. Funk, whose biography appears in this volume. James E. Funk was reared to manhood on the farm which adjoins his own place, received a district school education, and attended the Oneida schools. He assisted his father on the home place until he attained his majority and then rented seventy acres from his father, which he worked on shares until 1899, when he and his brother, Fred, rented the home place of 320 acres on shares. In 1900 he bought eighty-six acres just across the highway from his father's home place and rented it to a tenant for two years previous to making his home thereon in 1905. In that year he erected a seven-room frame house and a barn, 28x36 feet in size, and a double corn crib, etc., and has since made his home on the place. Mr. Funk has a nice two-acre orchard and specializes in Buff Orpington poultry, having about 150 on the place.

Mr. Funk was married November 8, 1905, to Jennie L. Marvin, a daughter of George and Louise (Neyhart) Marvin. George Marvin, her father, was born in New Jersey, September 8, 1844, and was reared in a country tavern which his parents operated on the highway between Bartonville and Stroudsburg, Penn. He became a teacher and followed this profession for ten years and then came to Seneca, Kans., where he engaged in the manufacture of barbed wire fencing, calf weaners and bed springs, in partnership with his brother, Philip. They finally disposed of their plant to a corporation or syndicate trust and he engaged in the general merchandise business until 1908. Old age coming on and his health failing, Mr. Marvin sold out his business and is now living a retired life in Seneca. He has held office in Pennsylvania and Seneca, Kans., served as police judge for Seneca for two terms and declined to serve for a third term. Since boyhood, Mr. Marvin has been a member of the Methodist church and is a trustee of the Seneca Methodist Episcopal Church. For twenty-five years he was affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and carries an honorary medal given for a quarter of a century's membership and for having filled all offices in the order. Mr. Marvin is a Democrat. Louise, his wife, was born in Pennsylvania, October 14, 1846, and was twenty years old when she and Mr. Marvin were married. The Marvins came to Kansas in 1880. They have reared four children, as follows: Frank, merchant of Blue Rapids, Kans., married Eva Michaels, of Ohio; Mrs. Ida Dutton, Blue Rapids, Kans., mother of three children, Frank, Ethel and Ora; Allen, a jeweler at Blue Rapids, Kans., has four children, Erma, Louis, Albert and Alice, deceased; Allen married Mary Rodgers, granddaughter of A. W. Slater, a pioneer of Centralia, Kans.; Jennie, wife of

James E. Funk, born at Stroudsburg, Pa., October 2, 1878, graduated from Seneca High School and the Nemaha Commercial College, and assisted her father in the store until her marriage with Mr. Funk. Mr. and Mrs. Funk have one child, Omer Marvin Funk, born November 26, 1912.

Mr. Funk is a Republican in politics, and attends church with Mrs. Funk, who is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Seneca.

**Samuel F. Johnson.**—The Johnson farm of 359 acres in Gilman township is one of the finest and best improved in northern Kansas, and is famed throughout this section of Kansas for the fine thoroughbred Aberdeen Angus cattle, which are bred by Mr. Johnson, who maintains a herd of fifty high grade stock at all times. He keeps about twelve head of Morgan horses, which are kept in first class condition. The fine poultry are the pride of the place, and Mrs. Johnson keeps 150 pure bred Barred Rock poultry, carefully housed and tended, which add no small amount to the income of this excellent agricultural plant. The Johnson tract of 359 acres of fine rolling land is all in cultivation excepting eighty acres of pasture. Mr. Johnson has thirty-eight acres of alfalfa, two acres of orchard and ten acres of virgin prairie grass. The Johnson residence is a pretentious nine room affair equipped with lighting system and modern throughout, supplemented with three barns, 32x36 feet, 30x42 feet and 32x64 feet in dimensions, modernly equipped with two litter carriers. The hog house is 20x64 feet in size and shelters 100 head of Duroc Jersey swine. Mr. Johnson has been building up his fine farm for thirty-two years, and is justly entitled to feel proud of his accomplishments.

Speaking in a biographical sense, Samuel F. Johnson was born May 25, 1863, in Nemaha county, within one and a half miles of his present home, and is a son of George W. and Marcella (Linn) Johnson, natives of Indiana and Illinois respectively. George W. Johnson, his father, was born in LaPorte county, Indiana, December 23, 1840, and is a son of George Johnson. He came to Kansas with his parents when eighteen years of age (1858), and is one of the first real settlers of Nemaha county. In 1904, Mr. Johnson left his farm and retired to a home in Seneca. He is comfortably situated in Seneca, and owns four residence properties, which yield him a good income. He is a Republican in politics, is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America, and attends the Methodist Episcopal church.

George W. Johnson was married in 1862 to Marcella Linn, born in 1851, in Illinois, came to Kansas with her parents in 1858, and died June 4, 1874. Four children were born to this union, as follows: Samuel F., with whom this review is concerned; David Linn, a Nemaha county farmer; Mrs. Ollie M. Turner, Sabetha, Kans.; Grace G., who married Harry Felts, a son of ex-Lieutenant Governor Felts, and resides at Washington, D. C. In 1878, Mr. Johnson married Nono Storm, who was born in Indiana in 1862, and has borne him one child, namely: Mrs. Ethel Gaston, of Seneca, Kans.



Samuel F. Johnson bought his farm when it was raw, unimproved prairie land and plowed the first furrow in the virgin soil on June 4, 1884, and has, by dint of hard labor, good management and intelligent application of the best principles of intensive agriculture, brought the land up to a high state of cultivation. All of the improvements on the farm have been placed at his direction and expense.

The marriage of Samuel F. Johnson and Mary L. Brokaw occurred November 30, 1887, and has been blessed with three children, namely: Melvin O., a druggist at Sabetha, Kans.; Alvin R., associated with his brother in the drug store; Virgil G., student in Kansas State University. Mrs. Mary L. (Brokaw) Johnson was born February 5, 1867, and is a daughter of John P. and Letitia (Van Nuys) Brokaw, the former of whom was born in New Jersey, November 24, 1833, a son of Abraham I. and Cornelia (Polhemus) Brokaw, natives of New Jersey. Abraham Brokaw was born October 11, 1787, and died May 5, 1878. During his whole life he cultivated a farm in New Jersey. Cornelia, his wife, was born February 11, 1793, and died April 3, 1873. To Abraham and Cornelia Brokaw were born twelve children, as follows: Cornelia, born 1813, died 1816; Ellen M., born 1815, died 1865; Catharine, born 1816, died 1904; Daniel P., born 1818, died 1894; Isaac A., born 1819, died 1892; Eliza Jane and Phoebe Ann, born 1825, the former of whom died in 1826, the latter, 1870; Henrietta, born 1828, died 1904; Theodore P., born 1830, died 1831; Louise and John P., born 1833, the former died 1837, and the latter is living; Abraham, born 1837, died same year.

John P. Brokaw, father of Mrs. Johnson, left New Jersey and migrated to Montgomery county, Illinois, in the spring of 1858, where he farmed for eighteen years, and then came to Kansas in 1877. He lived in Doniphan county for three years, and in 1880, bought eighty acres near Oneida in Nemaha county. His first home was a small affair, which was later superseded by a more pretentious home of eight rooms, in which he made his home until 1898. He then sold out and bought 320 acres near Perry, Okla., where he lived for five years, sold out, and engaged in the harness business at Wichita, Kans., for three years. He then farmed a twenty acre tract near Wichita for the ensuing two years, after which he returned to Oklahoma and remained there for a year. After another period of residence at Wichita, he made his home with his daughter, Mrs. Johnson, near Oneida. Mr. Brokaw is owner of a farm of 360 acres in Louisiana. He was married January 13, 1858, to Letitia Van Nuys, born in New Jersey, March 4, 1837, and died February 22, 1890. Six children were born to John P. and Letitia Brokaw, as follows: Annie L., born 1859, died 1860; Jacob S., born 1861, is a contractor at Los Angeles, and had one child, Clydia, who died February 10, 1916; Cornelia P., born 1865, died 1866; Mary L., wife of Samuel F. Johnson; Charles E., born 1871, a farmer in Montana; Lizzie B., born 1875, wife of Emery Conwell, merchant of Oneida. Letitia (Van Nuys) Brokaw was a daughter of James and Letitia (Staats) Van Nuys, the former of



whom was born August 29, 1799, in New Jersey, and died January 14, 1866. The latter was born March 2, 1804, and died September 28, 1873. Five children were born to James and Letitia Van Nuys, namely: Sarah E., born 1826, died 1900; Catharine, born 1831, died 1900; Henry S., born 1833, resides in New Jersey; Anna M., born 1835, died 1902; Letitia, born 1837, died 1890. James and Letitia were married in New Jersey, December 4, 1823.

Samuel F. Johnson is a Republican in politics and has taken an active and influential part in township and county affairs. He is now serving his second term as township clerk, and has been a member of the school board. He is affiliated with the Yeomanry and is foreman of his lodge, is a member of the Knights and Ladies of Security, and auditor of the same lodge, of which Mrs. Johnson is also a member. He attends the Congregational church, of which denomination Mrs. Johnson is a member and trustee.

**Chester A. Funk**, farmer, Gilman township, was born in the home where he is now living, June 8, 1881, and is a son of David and Lucinda Funk, old residents of Nemaha county, to whose life story in this volume the reader is respectfully referred. Chester A. Funk was educated in the Oneida schools and worked on his father's farm until he attained his majority. He then pursued a three months course in Spaulding's Business College at Kansas City, Mo., but did not complete his course on account of an epidemic breaking out among the students of the school. He was fortunate in being in a dentist's office when smallpox was discovered in the school and returned home while all of the student body were taken to the pest house for detention and treatment. Upon his return home, he and his brother, Carl, rented their father's farm on shares, and they farmed together until 1905, at which time Carl went to Portland, Ore., and Chester A., has remained in charge of the farm to this date.

Mr. Funk was married, June 1, 1904, to Miss Laura Conwell, daughter of A. L. Conwell, an old resident of Gilman township, and whose biography appears in this volume. Mrs. Laura Funk was born May 29, 1880, and attended the district school in the neighborhood of her father's farm until sixteen years old, then became a pupil in the Oneida High School, graduating therefrom in 1900. Eight children have been born of this marriage, namely: Dorothy, aged ten years; David, aged nine; Howard and Herold (twins), aged seven; Catharine, five years old; Revier, three years of age; Alice, aged two; Frances Eleanor, born January 30, 1916.

Mr. Funk attends services at the Christian church, of which denomination Mrs. Funk has been a member since she was sixteen years old. Mr. Funk is an independent in politics, and is inclined to be progressive in his political views. For the past year, he has filled the post of road supervisor. He is affiliated fraternally with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and has filled all chairs in the Oneida Lodge of Odd Fellows.

**Willie C. Reynolds.**—The general merchandise store of W. C. Reynolds, of Oneida, Kans., is one of the thriving business establishments of Nemaha county, and a stock of goods exceeding in value of \$7,000 is attractively displayed in a large frame business building forty-one by sixty feet in dimensions, erected by Mr. Reynolds in 1914. The stock of goods sold over the counters in this prosperous establishment includes groceries, general merchandise, dry goods, work clothing, feed, etc. Mr. Reynolds has been engaged in business in Oneida for the past two years and during that time has built up an extensive and profitable trade.

W. C. Reynolds was born at Agency, Mo., March 21, 1879, and is a son of Levi and Eva L. (Babcock) Reynolds. Levi Reynolds, his father, was born on a farm in Buchanan county, near Agency, Mo., February 9, 1856, and was a son of pioneer parents from Virginia. When he was twenty-one years of age he bought a small farm south of Agency and began farming on his own account and also rented land. The small tract of twenty acres which Levi Reynolds bought necessitated its clearing of timber and the erection of a home. He built a three-room house and set out fruit trees to such an extent that in later years the entire tract was all in fruit. Six years later he moved to De Kalb county, Missouri, and rented 160 acres for a period of two years. In 1890 he sold his farm near Agency and removed to St. Joseph where his wife died in 1893, and he then returned to Agency and bought a farm of fifty-two acres, which is now well improved and is the present residence of the family. The mother of W. C. Reynolds was born in Livingston county, Missouri, in 1862, and died in St. Joseph in 1891. Levi and Eva Reynolds were married in 1877 and two children were born of this marriage, namely: Willie C., the subject of this review, and Mrs. Lela M. Stanton, living on a farm near Centralia, Kans., and mother of eight children. Mr. and Mrs. Levi Reynolds were members of the Baptist church.

W. C. Reynolds was reared on his father's farm and received a common school education, attending the public schools of St. Joseph for three years. In 1899 he began working for himself in a stirrup factory at Agency, Mo. One year later he was made manager of the factory and held the position for two years. In 1902 he was employed as timber buyer for a lumbering firm and in 1903 he removed to St. Joseph and was employed as street railway conductor for one year and a half and then followed teaming until 1907, at which time he came to Nemaha county, Kansas, and rented the Alex. Moore farm of 160 acres. Two years later he rented an additional 160 acres and followed farming until September 15, 1914, when he disposed of his crops, farming implements and live stock and located in Oneida and engaged in the mercantile business.

Mr. Reynolds was married November 15, 1899, to Miss Eva M. Ratcliff, who has borne him the following children: Crystel L., aged

fifteen years and a student in the Oneida High School; Pearl, died at the age of three months. Mrs. Eva M. Reynolds was born at Agency, Mo., November 13, 1880, and is a daughter of William H. and Bertha L. (Hunt) Ratcliff. William Ratcliff, father of Mrs. Reynolds, was born June 6, 1854, in Missouri. His father was a sawmill operator and he was reared in the vicinity of his father's mill and became the support of the family when seventeen years old on account of his father's early death. When sixteen years old he started a stirrup factory at Hainesville, Mo., and seven years later he moved his factory to Agency, where it has since grown to become an important industrial affair. Mr. Ratcliff first began making stirrups with a hand adze and saw and is now the head of a large corporation and has a plant equipped with modern working machinery and employing twenty or more men. He ships the product of his factory to all parts of the world. The Ratcliffs were married in 1878, and have reared children as follows: Eva, wife of W. C. Reynolds, and born November 13, 1880, educated in the Agency schools and married at the age of nineteen years; Charles, a farmer of Hemple, Mo., and father of two children, William and Felix; Oran Lee, a farmer of Frazier, Mo., and father of one child, Catharine. The mother of Mrs. Reynolds was born at Albany, N. Y., in 1862, and was reared by her grandmother, her father having been killed in the Civil war. William H. Ratcliff was a deacon of the Baptist church for many years, a Democrat in politics, and a member of the Woodmen of the World.

Mr. Reynolds is a Democrat in his political affiliations and is a member of the Woodmen of the World and the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He and Mrs. Reynolds deserve considerable credit for their rise in the world to a position of standing and affluence, and their success is really striking when one considers that their advent into Kansas followed a siege of sickness which left Mr. Reynolds nearly \$800 in debt.

**William J. Ball**, retired farmer and Union veteran, Oneida, Kans., was born in Washington county, Ohio, December 29, 1841, and is a son of James and Jane (Benson) Ball, natives of Virginia and Ohio respectively. James Ball was born in Loudon county, near Harper's Ferry, Va., in 1813, and died in Ohio in 1870. At the age of fourteen he was apprenticed to a shoe maker, and finished his apprenticeship, and became proficient at his trade when twenty-one years of age. He started a shop of his own at McConnellsville, Ohio, and was married in Belmont county, Ohio, in 1841. Shortly after his marriage, he removed to Meigs county, Ohio, established himself in the shoe trade and lived at Tupper's Plains until his removal to Long Bottom. He died near Syracuse, Ohio. He was a member of the Baptist church, and was a well read man; taught school at intervals, and served as a member of the school board of his city. Mrs. Jane Ball, mother of the subject, was born in Belmont county, Ohio, in 1814, and died in Meigs county in 1855. She was reared in the country, and was the eldest of four daughters, born to her parents. Be-

ing the eldest of a family of daughters, she learned to do work outside of the home and assisted her parents in clearing the brush away from her father's land, going to mill with the grist to be ground, and naturally grew up to become a robust and hearty woman. However, her health failed her when her last child was born and she died in 1855. There were six children in the Ball family, as follows: William J., with whom this review is directly concerned; Charles B., born 1842, and died in 1913, leaving four children, Myrtle, Harriett, Emma, and Edward; George, born 1845, lives at Stockton, Cal., and has four children, Agnes, Mary, Norton, and Harry; Joseph J., born 1847, resides in Columbus, Ohio, is a school teacher and clerk, has one child, May; Mrs. Maria Stobert, Meigs county, Ohio, born 1850, and mother of five children, namely: Earl, Carrie, Herbert, Lenora, and Amy, deceased; one child died in infancy.

William J. Ball worked out as farm hand at twenty-five cents per day in his younger days, and learned the tannery business, but never followed it, because of a distaste for the work, although he was to receive \$25 per year while learning the trade. When seventeen years of age, he did the hardest kind of labor, sometimes making fence rails at fifty cents per hundred, said fence rail to be cut at least eleven feet long. He also made staves, and grubbed out underbrush at \$3 per acre, and during harvest time, he swung a cradle in the wheat fields for \$10 a month. He worked seven months on one farm for \$8 per month, and then worked on a towboat plying on the Ohio river from Pomeroy to Louisville for about three months.

When the Civil war began, he enlisted in Company B, One Hundred Sixteenth Ohio infantry, under Captain Keyes, and fought in the battles of Piedmont, Va., Fisher Hill, near Strausburg, Cedar Creek, Winchester (1864), and Snicker's Ferry. He was engaged in the three days' battle of Winchester with General Early. His command suffered a rout, and he was lost from his command for one month before he found his way back to the company mess. He was present at Winchester when Sheridan made his famous ride, turned back the fleeing soldiers, and saved the day for the Union forces. He was stationed on the Chickahominy river until February, 1864, and his command was detailed south of Petersburg, captured Ft. Gregg near Petersburg, and followed Lee to Appomattox, and witnessed Lee's surrender. They remained at Richmond until June, 1865, and then went home. Mr. Ball was honorably discharged in June, 1865, and returned to steamboating on the Ohio river for one and a half years. Becoming afflicted with rheumatism he secured a place as night watchman in a coal mining town, and was thus employed for two and a half years. He then went to Pomeroy, and was a night watchman for five years. In 1870, he purchased a sixty acre farm in Meigs county, Ohio, for \$2,500, for which he paid \$1,250, and gave a mortgage at ten per cent. He lived for two years on his farm, and then sold out. In 1878, he came to Nemaha county,

Kansas, and moved to a farm of 160 acres, which had been given to Mrs. Ball by her father. After two years' residence in Kansas, Mr. and Mrs. Ball sold their farm and returned to Syracuse, Ohio, where Mr. Ball operated an engine until 1882. The lure of the great West again drew them on, and they returned to Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1882, for a permanent stay. They bought eighty-two acres of land, improved it and resided thereon until 1890, at which time they rented the land and moved to southern California and Colorado with their son whose health had failed. They spent two years on the coast, and in Colorado, and upon their return, purchased a neat cottage in Oneida, which serves as the Ball home. The eighty-two acre tract owned by Mrs. Ball is well improved and cultivated by their son. Mr. Ball is also the owner of 200 acres in Smith county, Kansas, which he rents out as grain land, and also owns 160 acres in Texas, which is fenced but otherwise unimproved.

William J. Ball was married, in 1870, to Harriet Gilmore, who has borne him the following children: Mrs. Nellie Pettit, died in Nemaha county; Edgar, died at the age of seven months; Clinton G., lives on the Ball farm, is married and has one child, Norman, aged one year. Clinton G., attended the Oneida High School, but broken health compelled him to relinquish his studies, and he later studied bookkeeping at Denver, Colo., and is now a successful practical farmer.

Mrs. Harriett (Gilmore) Ball was born in Meigs county, Ohio, April 24, 1842, and is a daughter of Isaac and Polly (Stivers) Gilmore. She was reared on a Buckeye State farm, educated in the district and high schools, and taught school for twelve years previous to her marriage. Mrs. Ball has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church for forty-six years.

Mr. Ball is a Republican, is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and is affiliated with the Oneida Methodist Episcopal Church, and is a trustee of the same.

**Joseph B. Ketter**, merchant, Kelly, Kans., is a member of the firm of Ketter & Schumacher, conducting a general merchandise store at Kelly. This store is one of the thriving business concerns of Nemaha county, and a stock of goods valued at over \$11,000 is carried constantly. The large and ever increasing trade of the store is due to the courteous and honest treatment afforded the many patrons of the establishment.

Joseph B. Ketter was born November 13, 1875, in Wisconsin, and is a son of Philip and Elizabeth (Wink) Ketter, natives of Germany. Philip Ketter was born in Germany in 1834 and was reared to young manhood in his native land. He immigrated to America in 1856 and settled in Wisconsin, where he bought a forty-acre tract of timber land, which he cleared and lived upon until 1880. He then sold his Wisconsin farm and came to Kansas, where he bought 220 acres of land in the Wild Cat district. He cultivated this tract with profit until 1902, when he sold it and bought 320 acres in Harrison township, Nemaha county. He lived upon this farm for eight years, then rented it and retired to a home in

Kelly, Kans. He died June 4, 1915. Thirteen children were born to Philip and Elizabeth Ketter, namely: Philip, a farmer in Illinois township, Nemaha county, and father of eight children, as follows: Louis, Katie, Tena, Clara, Marguerite, Lawrence, Ollie and Ambrose; Jacob, at home; Peter, a farmer in Adams township; George, a farmer in Okarche, Okla., and the father of eight children; John, died in infancy; Joseph B., subject of this review; Mrs. Ida Huls, living in Richmond township, and mother of seven children; Elizabeth, known as Sister Agilbertha, at Mt. St. Scholastica's, Atchison, Kans.; John A., farming the Ketter home place, has three children; Mrs. Mary Eisenbarth, also living on a family farm, has four children; Anna died at the age of seventeen years; Henry, farming in Adams township, has three children; Andrew, clerk in the store at Kelly, Kans. The mother of this large family of children was born in Germany in 1848, and was brought to Wisconsin with her parents when she was a six months' old infant, living in Wisconsin until her marriage with Mr. Ketter, May 4, 1863.

Joseph B. Ketter was reared on his father's farm and was educated in the district schools of Richmond township, Nemaha county. He remained with his parents until he attained his majority and then began farming on his own account on a rented forty-acre farm. He continued in agricultural pursuits until 1906, and then came to Kelly, where he bought a half interest in the general merchandise store of Joe Schumacher. At the time Mr. Ketter entered into partnership with Mr. Schumacher, the store carried a small stock of goods, valued at \$4,700. Since that time Mr. Ketter, by diligent application and tireless industry and careful attention to business details, has built up the business to a capacity of \$11,000. The firm has a two-story store building 30x60 feet in extent, and has generally prospered.

Mr. Ketter is a Democrat in politics. He is a member of the Catholic Church, and is affiliated with the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association.

**Isaac C. Lockard.**—Nearly sixty years have gone by since Isaac C. Lockard, Nemaha county pioneer and settler, came with his bride to Kansas in search of a home on the boundless prairies. The first home of this grand old patriarch in Nemaha county was a typical sod house, which soon gave place to a more pretentious frame dwelling. Mr. Lockard has seen a great State in the making; he has witnessed the disappearance of the buffalo, the wild game and the Indians, and has seen the onward advance of civilization and the redemption of a wilderness and is proud of the fact that he is one of the oldest pioneers of Kansas. When Mr. Lockard landed in Atchison, Kans., the present beautiful Kansas city of 20,000 inhabitants was but a collection of a dozen or so houses—what wonderful changes have taken place since that period.

Isaac C. Lockard was born in Jefferson county, Indiana, November 5, 1833, and is a son of William R. and Sarah C. (Day) Lockard, who



ISAAC C. LOCKARD.





were the parents of ten sons and three daughters. William R. Lockard, his father, was born in Kentucky in 1795, and removed with his parents to Indiana early in the nineteenth century. He died in 1862. His wife was born in Kentucky in 1815 and died in 1901. Both parents were members of the Christian church. The Lockard family left their Indiana home when the subject of this review was a boy and settled in Iowa, where Isaac C. was reared to young manhood.

This was in the pioneer days of Iowa and Isaac C. Lockard learned early in his youth what it was to rough it in the most primitive style. He attended school for about three months each year in an old log school house, and this school was supported by the subscriptions of the settlers in the neighborhood. The cabin was meanly furnished and the seats which the boys and girls used were hewn slabs of oak or native timber. When a boy, Isaac had plenty of work in the way of cutting brush from his father's land and splitting rails for fencing. He was married in 1856 and in 1857 decided to try his fortunes in the new State of Kansas. Accordingly, he set out and made his way to Atchison, where he lived for a year, and then farmed a tract of land in Lancaster township, Atchison county. From Atchison county he made his way to Pawnee county, Nebraska, and farmed there until 1871, at which time he bought seventy-three acres of land in Clear Creek township, Nemaha county, Kansas. His land was improved with a "sod house"—left there by the first homesteader. Mr. Lockard at once built a frame house, 16x24 feet in extent, and has made various improvements since that time, and has added to his possessions until he owns 113 acres in Nemaha county.

Mr. Lockard was married in 1856 to Sarah C. McMains, who was born in April, 1836, in Indiana, and this union has resulted in the birth of seven children, as follows: Vellite, deceased; Margaret A. Lockard, Clear Creek township; William, deceased; Robert, Shelby county, Missouri; James R., married Eva Kerl, farming the home place; George H., deceased; Sadie C., wife of C. Saums, living in Texas. In addition to these children, Mr. Lockard adopted an orphan child when she was seven days old and reared her as one of his own. The child's name was Rosa Wymore, now happily married to Ben Wagner, and living in Texas. Mrs. Lockard died in 1904.

Mr. Lockard has been a life long Republican, but has never been a seeker after political preferment. He is a member of the Christian church. It is a matter of note that this pioneer had five brothers and two brothers-in-law in the Union army.

**David H. Fitzgerald, M. D.,** Kelly, Kans., has been a medical practitioner in Kansas for the past thirty-five years, and has practiced his profession in Nemaha county for thirty-two years. In point of years of service in behalf of suffering humanity he is one of the oldest practicing physicians in the county.

Dr. Fitzgerald was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, July

23, 1853, and is a son of Thomas C. and Margaret (Witherspoon) Fitzgerald, both of whom were natives of the Keystone State. Thomas C. Fitzgerald, his father, was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, in 1818 and educated himself for the teaching profession, which he followed during the winter months, and pursued the vocation of contractor and brick layer when school was not in session. He migrated to Miami county, Kansas, in 1877, and located on a farm near Paola, where he bought an eighty-acre farm. He farmed his land for a few years, then rented it and retired to a home in Paola. He died in 1884. Thomas C. Fitzgerald was married to Margaret Witherspoon in Pennsylvania, and she was his faithful helpmate. She was born July 18, 1821, and died at the home of her son, John W., in Kansas City, Mo., March 4, 1910. Thomas and Margaret Fitzgerald were the parents of five children, three of whom were living at the time of the mother's demise, namely: John W., Kansas City, Mo.; James S., Wetmore, Kans., and Dr. David H., the subject of this review.

Dr. Fitzgerald has an interesting family genealogy on his maternal side and is descended directly from Robert I, (Robert Bruce) King of Scotland, and his ancestral tree is chronicled as follows: (I) Margaret, the daughter of Robert I, (Robert Bruce) King of Scotland, married Walter, the sixth high steward of Scotland, and had an only son who became Robert II, King of Scotland, born 1316, died 1390, first of the Stuart sovereigns of Scotland. The title Stewart or Stuart was adopted because of the ancestral possession of the high stewardship on the paternal side. Robert II married Lady Isabel Mure and by her had a third son, (III) Robert Stuart, Earl of Monteith and of Fife and Duke of Albany, chief executive of the government of Scotland for his brother Robert III, who married Lady Margaret as his wife and by her had (IV) Murdoch Stuart, governor of Scotland, condemned and executed for treason. His wife was Isabel, daughter of Duncan, Earl of Lennox, and by her had (V) Sir James Stuart, who was proclaimed a rebel and died in Ireland in 1451. His wife was Lady McDonald, and by her had (VI) Walter Stuart, of Morphee, who married Lady Elizabeth Arnot, and by her had a second son (VII), Andrew Stuart, who became the third Lord Evandale, and married Lady Margaret, daughter of Sir John Kennedy. They had a son (VIII), Andrew Stuart, who was fourth Lord Evandale and governor of Dunbarton Castle, Scotland. He (Andrew) assumed the title "Ochiltree" by consent of the crown, and died in 1548. His wife, Lady Margaret Hamilton, daughter of James Hamilton, Earl of Arrau and descendant of James II, King of Scotland—they had a son (IX), Andrew Stuart, who became Lord Ochiltree II and married Agnes Cunningham and they had as their second daughter (X) Lady Margaret Stuart, who married John Knox, the reformer. John Knox had been previously married and at the time of this second marriage in 1564 was fifty-nine years of age, while his wife of quite a young woman. Much comment was occasioned throughout Scotland because of

Lady Margaret's marriage to a man of humble birth and because of the disparity of their ages. Notwithstanding all this the marriage was a happy one. John Knox was born in Haddington in 1505 and died in Edinburgh, November 24, 1572. They had a daughter (XI), Elizabeth Knox, who married Rev. John Welch, the minister at Ayr and a distinguished teacher of his day. They had a daughter whose name was (XII) Daughter Welch. She married Rev. James Witherspoon, minister of the Parish of Yester, Haddingtonshire, near Edinburgh, all of his ministerial life. He was born sometime previous to 1680. His father was David Witherspoon and the name is said to have been originally 'Wodderspoon.' One of his sons was (XIII) James Witherspoon, a minister who married Ann Walker. They had a son (XIV) James "Wodderspoon." One of his sons was (XIII) James Witherspoon, a burgh, in 1725. He was married in Scotland and immigrated to America about 1750, settling in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. He was accidentally killed about 1760. The Rev. Dr. Witherspoon, signer of the Declaration of Independence and president of Princeton College, was his brother. James Witherspoon had a second son (XV), James W. Witherspoon, who was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, August 15, 1757, and died March, 1832, purchased and owned the old Franklin county, Pennsylvania, homestead, and was married April 25, 1780, to Mollie Elliott, whose mother was a Hamilton, cousin of Alexander Hamilton. She was born in the West Indies and died in the Pennsylvania home in 1833. They had seven children, of whom the eldest was (XVI) John Witherspoon, born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, September 9, 1781, and died April 26, 1860. He married Nancy Scott, December 8, 1808. Their daughter was (XVII) Margaret Witherspoon, born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, July 18, 1821, married December 5, 1848, to Thomas Clark Fitzgerald.

David Hurst Fitzgerald attended the common schools of his native county until the removal of the family to Illinois in 1865, and he then studied at the McCombs schools and pursued a scientific college course in 1872 and 1873. He taught school in Illinois for six years and taught for one year after the family settled in Kansas. He studied medicine and graduated from the Keokuk College of Medicine in 1881. In the autumn following his graduation Dr. Fitzgerald located in Garrison, Pottawatomie county, Kansas, practiced for one year, then located at Blaine, Pottawatomie county, and practiced there until July 10, 1884, at which date he located at Wetmore, Nemaha county. He built up a large practice at Wetmore and remained in that city until July, 1898, when he located at Kelly. He conducts a drug store in addition to his medical practice. For twelve years Dr. Fitzgerald served as surgeon for the Missouri Pacific Railway Company.

Dr. Fitzgerald was married in 1887 to Ella Leibig, who died in 1894, leaving three children, namely: Terrance C., United States railway mail clerk traveling out of St. Joseph on the Rock Island railroad, father of

one child, Virginia J.; Dr. David Hurst Fitzgerald, dentist at Seneca; James W., died in youth. The mother of the foregoing children was born in Kansas, September, 1869, and was a daughter of William and Sarah (Longue) Leibig. William Leibig was born in Germany in 1846; came to America with his father when a young man; enlisted in a Kansas regiment and served throughout the Civil war, was wounded in battle; and after his discharge located in Nemaha county and dealt in horses until 1888; sold out and retired to a home in St. Joseph, Mo.; was a member of the Knights of Pythias, Woodmen of the World, Grand Army of the Republic, and a Republican in politics. Sarah, his wife, was born in Kansas in 1842 and died in 1886. William and Sarah Leibig were the parents of four children, namely: Mrs. Dora Boyce, California; Charles, a telephone operator at St. Joseph, Mo.; Ella, deceased wife of Dr. Fitzgerald; Ida, died in youth.

In 1897 Dr. Fitzgerald espoused in marriage, Miss Alice G. Johnson, of Muscogee, Okla., who was born in Illinois in 1866, and is a daughter of William and Julia Johnson, who were the parents of the following children, namely: Mrs. Mamie Hervey, Kansas City, Mo.; mother of two children, namely: Mary and Sydney; Walter P., superintendent Muscogee, Okla., water works, and has one child, Helen; Richard S., master mechanic Missouri, Kansas & Texas railroad, Muscogee, Okla., and has one child, Esther; Mrs. Ida Smelzer, Kansas City, Kans., whose husband is chief operator Western Union Telegraph Company; Mrs. Eva Crum, telephone operator, main station, at Kansas City, Mo., and Lula. Mrs. Fitzgerald was educated in Missouri, qualified for the teaching profession, but never taught. For the past ten years she has been chief operator and manager for the Kelly exchange of the Bell Telephone Company, and has filled the office of post mistress for the past year.

Dr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald attend the Methodist Episcopal church. Dr. Fitzgerald is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Kelly Lodge No. 570, the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, No. 53, of Wetmore, Kans., and the Knights of Pythias of Seneca.

**Michael Eisenbarth**, retired, Kelly, Kans., was born at Differton, Germany, June 29, 1848, and is a son of John and Anna (Larson) Eisenbarth, natives of Germany. John Eisenbarth, his father, was born in 1813, and was employed in the coal mines of his native land until his death in 1870. His wife, Anna, was born in 1820, and died in 1890. John and Anna Eisenbarth were the parents of eight children, as follows: John, deceased; Anna M., deceased; Marguerite, was a midwife in Germany for forty years and now makes her home at Differton; Michael, subject of this sketch; John N., lives at Differton, Germany; Nicholas, lives with Michael; Peter, killed in a coal mine in Mexico, September 22, 1882; Mrs. Anna Stemmle, Differton, Germany, and mother of five children, namely: Peter, Margaret, Anna, Catharine and Joseph; Mrs. Helen Larson, on a farm near Seneca, and mother of eight children, Anna, Clara, Ida, Bertha, Marie, John and Odelia.

Michael Eisenbarth began work in the coal mines of his native country when sixteen years of age and followed mining until 1870, at which time he was called to the colors, and participated in the Franco-Prussian war, remaining in the service until 1873. He then mined coal until 1875, and immigrated to America in that year. He first located at Youngstown, Ohio, later went to Kewanee, Ill., and worked in the coal mines until 1881. He then came to Kansas, and bought forty acres of unimproved land near Corning in Nemaha county, upon which he resided until 1915, when he retired to a comfortable home at Kelly, Kans. Mr. Eisenbarth has prospered during the thirty-five years he has been a resident of Kansas, and is now the owner of 280 acres of good, tillable land.

He was married in Illinois, in 1876, to Ernestine Furst, a daughter of David and Wilhelmina (Wolf) Furst, and to this marriage, nine children have been born, as follows: Mrs. Louisa Wiltz, Corning, Kans., mother of four children: Carrie, Mary, Anna, and Andrew; Mrs. Helena Johnson, Kelly, Kans., mother of three children, namely: John, Henry, and Hazel; Helena and Louisa are twins; Henry N., a farmer near Corning, and father of four children, Laurence, Marguerite, Sarah and Norvert; Mrs. Carrie Koch, Baileyville, Kans., mother of four children, namely: Vincent and Marcella (twins), George and Furman; Mrs. Clara Ketter, on a farm near Kelly, mother of three children, namely, Francis, Celestine, and Mildred; Emma, a teacher; John, farmer near Kelly, has four children: Vincent, Albert, Edmond, and Raymond; William, cultivating the home place, married, and has one child: Wilfrid; Fred, also on the home place. Ernestine Eisenbarth, mother of this fine family, was born in Germany, September 18, 1853, and immigrated to America with her parents when six years of age. Her father, David Furst, was born in 1815 and upon his immigration to this country he located on a farm in Illinois, which he cultivated until his untimely death by accident in 1863. His wife, Wilhelmina, was born in Germany in 1817, and died in Corning, Kans., in 1901. Mr. and Mrs. Furst were the parents of eleven children, as follows: Wilhelmina Zang, in Nebraska; August, farmer, Oklahoma; Carolina Charlotte, in Illinois; Augusta, deceased; Ernestine, wife of Michael Eisenbarth; Mrs. Louisa Kempin, Corning, Kans.; Mrs. Emma Coleman, Paxton, Ill.; William, a farmer near Corning, Kans.; Charles, Kewanee, Ill.; Mrs. Odelia Zang, Kewanee, Ill.

Mr. and Mrs. Eisenbarth and the children of this fine family are members of the Catholic church, and contribute of their means to the support of Catholic institutions. He usually votes the Democratic ticket, and is a loyal Kansan in every sense.

**John M. Swart.**—Thirty years ago John M. Swart, wealthy landed proprietor of Adams township, began his career in Kansas. He and his wife were distressedly poor—so poor that all they owned was a small cookstove and a bedstead, which cost the small sum of \$2.50 (still in the family home), one table, and some cheap chairs, all of which were bought

on time. With this assortment of household furnishings, Mr. and Mrs. Swart began their wedded life. They were young, ambitious and optimistic, however, and were looking forward to better times and the accumulation of a fortune in the future; but, the first year's crops were a total failure! However, it is said that "a bad beginning oft makes a good ending," and the adage, whether true or not, came true in the case of John M., and Louisa Swart, who are now the owners of 840 acres of well improved Kansas land. Can a man accomplish more than this in thirty years, at any other vocation based on hard work and tireless industry? We think not. Men may scheme, invent, or produce something which the public must have and make a fortune, often at the expense of their fellow creatures, but the farmer must delve in the ground, learn to outwit the vagaries of Mother Nature, and so manage his financial affairs that his books show a net profit each year. In the creation of a home on the wild prairie it is necessary for him to deny himself and his the luxuries of the present day civilization and to always look ahead. Perhaps it is the ingrained German thrift inherited through a long line of industrious ancestors which has enabled Mr. Swart to make good; we are inclined to believe this, inasmuch as the people of his nationality are noted the world over for this trait.

John M. Swart was born in Germany, March 6, 1860, and is a son of Martin and Addina (Kronlova) Swart, natives of the Fatherland. Martin Swart was born in 1814, learned the trade of baker in his native village and immigrated to America in 1872, settling near Manhattan, Kans., where he took up a homestead near the town of Leonardville. He tilled his farm until 1886, then rented the place and retired to a home at Leonardville, where he died in 1889. He was a member of the Evangelical church. His wife, Addina, was born in 1831, married in 1851, and died in 1899. To Martin and Addina Swart were born nine children, namely: William, a gardener at Manhattan, Kans.; Henry, Rockey, Okla.; George, living in Oregon; Mrs. Henrietta Nanninga, Levittsville, Kans.; John M., subject of this review; Dietrich, a minister at Holton, Kans.; Mrs. Marguerite Barnett, Leonardville, Kans.; Mrs. Addina Debus, Jewell City, Kans., and Mrs. Minnie Bohnenblust, Leonardville, Kans.

John M. Swart was twelve years of age when the Swart family immigrated to America. When he was twenty-six years old he rented his father's farm for ten years and had many ups and down during that period. He began with nothing, but managed to save sufficient money to make a substantial payment on 120 acres of land in Adams township, Nemaha county, in 1896. This farm was the nucleus around which his present large estate has been built up, and he is now the owner of 840 acres, on which stands a comfortable, nine-room farm residence, modernized and equipped with a lighting system and which makes a strong contrast to the little old house in which he and his wife began life in Nemaha county. On the Swart farm there are four good houses and five large barns. For some years he maintained a dairy herd of thirty-two cows,

which materially added to his income and produced as high as \$8 worth of cream daily. Mr. Swart is also a large feeder of cattle and deals extensively in poultry. Like many other farmers he is an alfalfa grower and has a field of eighty acres on his place.

The marriage of John M. Swart and Louisa Zeisset occurred on February 8, 1886, and has been blessed with the following children: Mrs. Martha Krummel, on a farm near Rice, Kans.; George, located on the home place, has two children, Wilbert and Alfred; Henry, on his father's farm, has one child, Leonard; Mrs. Lillie Johnson, on a farm near Goff, Kans., mother of three children, Glen, Elmer and Pearl; Bettie, at home; Emma, deceased; John, at home; Rosa, died in infancy. Mrs. Louisa Swart was born in Germany, July 20, 1866, and is a daughter of Jacob and Marguerite (Mueller) Zeisset. Jacob Zeisset was born in 1837, married Marguerite Mueller in 1862 and departed this life in his native land in 1883. Marguerite Zeisset was born in 1842 and died in 1881. Jacob and Marguerite Zeisset were the parents of six children, namely: Louisa, wife of John M. Swart; Mrs. Bertha Nanninga, Leonardville, Kans.; Mrs. Elizabeth Weller, Leonardville, Kans.; Jacob, a farmer at Leonardville, Kans.; Mrs. Bettie Harriman, and Henry, Leonardville. Mrs. Swart came to America in 1882 and worked as domestic as wages varying from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per week. She was thus employed in Pittsburg, Pa., for three years and one year in Clay Center, Kans., previous to her marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Swart are members of the Evangelical church and contribute of their means to the support of this denomination. Mr. Swart has served the people of his township as a member of the school board and also filled the post of township trustee for six years. He has always been a steadfast Republican. Few men can look backward with more pride in personal achievement than John M. Swart, and few couples can look forward with more complacency in a comfortable and assured future than they. Like the village blacksmith in Longfellow's immortal poem,

"He looks the whole world in the face,  
For he owes not any man."

**George W. Sourk** is one of the "live wires" and best-known business men in Nemaha county, and his drug store at Goff is one of the most complete and up-to-date of any in the county. He enjoys a large and permanent patronage because of the excellent service which he renders, and his business grows steadily with the passing of time.

Mr. Sourk was born February 24, 1876, and is the son of William and Amanda (Mitchell) Sourk. The father was a native Scotchman and came to the United States at the age of sixteen and located with his parents at Oshkosh, Wis., where his father had pre-empted forty acres of land. At the age of twenty-one, he started out to farm for himself, and until 1880, he farmed in Whiteside and Stark counties, Illinois. He then came to Kansas and bought 320 acres of unimproved land in Harrison



township, Nemaha county, and lived on this place until his death, in July, 1910. When the Kansas City Northwestern railroad was built through Kansas, William Sourk had a spur built out to his farm and this line is still known as Sourk's spur. He was a heavy shipper of grain and livestock. At the time of his death he owned 720 acres of well improved land. He was a member of the Christian church and attended to his religious life with great sincerity and faithfulness.

The mother of George W. Sourk was born in Kentucky and received a common school education. She was married to Mr. Sourk in Illinois and died in Kansas in 1909. Eight children were born to them, George W. being the youngest son.

George W. Sourk received a common school education and began life for himself at the age of nineteen, when he took a position as school teacher and taught for nine years. At the end of that time he bought out Dr. L. A. Corwin's drug store and soon afterward became a registered pharmacist. His venture into the drug business became a great success, and eight years later he bought out the store of C. H. Hayes, which he consolidated with his own, making it one of the largest and most complete drug stores in Nemaha county. In addition to his business, he owns 320 acres of land in Harrison township, which are well improved, and has a residence in Goff. He also owns the large business block in which his store is located. For many years he has been city clerk of Goff, and is secretary of the Goff Telephone Company. He is a member of the Masonic, Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Modern Woodmen of America, and is a Republican in politics.

In April, 1906, he was married to Maud Ward, and five children have been born to them, as follows: Lois, born April 8, 1907; Lela, born September 26, 1908; Ward, born April 19, 1912; George, born November 16, 1913, and Amanda Elizabeth, born March 5, 1916.

Mrs. Sourk is the daughter of E. R. and Elizabeth (Artman) Ward. Her father was born in Ohio in 1846 and was a soldier in the Civil war. Mr. Ward is prominent in the affairs of Wetmore and is president of the First National Bank, Wetmore, Kans. Mrs. Sourk was born November 7, 1879, in Larkin, Kans., and after receiving a common school education, she attended the State Normal School and taught for eight years afterward in the graded schools. She professed to the faith of the Methodist Episcopal Church and belongs to the Eastern Star lodge.

**Charles R. Tolliver**, ticket agent at Goff, Kans., has been a railroad man for many years, and has been station agent at a number of Kansas towns. He is one of the most efficient in the service and has been promoted a number of times for good service. He is the son of George W. and Mary E. (Limes) Tolliver. His father was born in Clay county, Illinois, in 1831, and was reared on a farm. He lived at home until his marriage in 1849 and then, at the age of eighteen, he began farming on 120 acres in Clay county, which was a gift from his father, a pioneer settler in that district who owned 2,500 acres of land in one body in



Illinois. He remained on this land until 1902, when he went to Ripley county, Missouri, and bought 320 acres, eighty of which were improved. During the four years he lived on this place he rented his Illinois farm, and about 1906, he returned to Illinois and rented out the Missouri property. He continued to live in Illinois until his death in 1907. He was an extensive dealer in livestock and was an energetic and active farmer, but as he neared the age of fifty, his health began to decline and he practically gave up his work then, doing only what was necessary to protect his property interests. He was a member of the Christian church, having joined that denomination early in life. Everyone looked upon him as a pillar in his church, and he could always be counted on for active service when help was needed in any of the church's affairs. The mother of Charles Tolliver, Mary E., was born in Indiana in 1833, and grew up on the farm. She was married at the age of sixteen to Mr. Tolliver and, like him, she was an active church worker. Her religious zeal ultimately cost her her life, as she exerted herself so much when caring for attendants at a series of revival meetings that she took pneumonia fever, and because of her weakened system, due to overwork, she died, that sad event taking place in Illinois in 1895. She left the following children: Mrs. Viola Strond, deceased, mother of five children; Lawrence, died in infancy; Charles R., subject of this review; Albert, farmer, Clay county, Illinois, father of Charlie, Hattie, Rial and Grace; Henry, deceased; Soloma, deceased, and Elmer, station agent at Hanna, Wyo., where he has been for twelve years in the employ of the Union Pacific, and father of one child.

Charles Tolliver was born in Clay county, Illinois, August 28, 1862, and was a graduate of Louisville High School, in Clay county. Upon completion of his high school work he taught for five years in Arkansas and Illinois, and at the age of twenty-four years he became station agent at Edmond, Kans., where he stayed about four years. He was then sent to Netawaka, next to Glen Elder, then back to Netawaka, from there to Osborne, and finally to Goff in 1905, where he was given charge of the union station, which place he has held until the present time. He owns eighty acres of improved land in Reilly township, which he cultivates.

In 1884 he was married to Henrietta Frey, and the following seven children have been born to them: Edgar, telegraph operator, Neosho, Mo.; Harry, operator, Sabetha, father of Richard L.; Jack, operator, Tulsa, Okla.; Mrs. Mary Steel, farmer, Harrison township; Ruth, high school student, living with her parents, and Robert and George, also living at home. Mrs. Tolliver is the daughter of Jonathan and Rebecca (Newton) Frey. The father was born in Ohio in 1829, and was reared on the farm and has never left it. He still farms in Clay county, Illinois, where he owns 120 acres of well improved land, but he now lives in retirement. He is a Methodist and votes the Democratic ticket. The mother was born in England in 1831 and came to the United States with her parents when she was a small girl and settled on a farm in Ohio, where

she lived until her marriage to Mr. Frey. She was a member of the Baptist church. Nine children were born to them, as follows: Samuel, farmer, Oklahoma; John, farmer, Terre Haute, Ind.; William, farmer, Clay county, Illinois; Henrietta, wife of Mr. Tolliver; Mrs. Nettie Wilson, Clay county, Illinois; James, farmer in same locality; Ollie, died in infancy, and Mrs. Myrtle Fancher, wife of a Clay county farmer.

Mrs. Tolliver grew up on the farm and remained with her parents until her marriage in 1884. She is a member of the Eastern Star and Royal neighbors lodges. Her husband belongs to the Masonic and Modern Woodmen of America orders, which are affiliated with those to which Mrs. Tolliver belongs. Mr. Tolliver votes the Democratic ticket.

**William M. Kongs**, hardware and implement merchant, Kelly, Kans., was born on a farm near Seneca, June 25, 1882, and is a son of Michael and Mary (Rettele) Kongs, natives of Germany. Michael Kongs, his father, was born in Luxemburg, Germany, in 1857, and when twenty years of age emigrated from his native land to America. He came direct to Sabetha, Kans., and worked at any honest labor he could find, such as railroad work and farming, until his death March 19, 1895, eventually becoming the owner of a farm near St. Benedict's. He was married to Mary Rettele in 1878 and was the father of four children, as follows: Mrs. Minnie Rohr, Okarche, Okla., mother of six children, namely: Helen, Edwin, Marie, Matilda, Louis and William; William M., the subject of this review; Mrs. Susan Schumacher, Kelly, Kans. (See sketch); Louis, on the home place of the family, north of Seneca, and has two children, namely: Vincent and Eulalia. The mother of William M. Kongs was born in Wisconsin in 1856 (see sketch of Joseph Rettele), was reared on the farm and remained at home until her marriage.

William M. Kongs was reared to young manhood on the parental farm and was educated in the district school. When he became of age he rented his mother's farm near Seneca and cultivated it for three years. He then bought 160 acres near Kelly in Adams township, which he improved and managed successfully for four years. He then sold his farm and purchased the hardware and implement business formerly owned by Peter Ketter. When he came into possession of the store the stock of goods carried did not exceed \$4,000 in value and Mr. Kongs, by dint of industry and the exercise of decided business ability, has increased the value of the stock carried to over \$8,000 during the past three years and also owns his storeroom and residence in Kelly. He is independent in politics and is a member of the Catholic Church of Kelly.

William M. Kongs was married February 9, 1904, to Sophia Novak, a daughter of Joseph and Agnes (Skolout) Novak, Bohemians by birth. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Kongs, namely: Albert, ten years old; Philomena, aged eight years; Sylvester, five years old.

Joseph Novak, father of Mrs. Kongs, left his native land of Bohemia in 1856 and immigrated to America at the age of eighteen years.

He made a pioneer settlement on the banks of Wild Cat creek, near Seneca and worked out for ten years on neighboring farms until he was enabled to buy eighty acres of land, which he improved and farmed, gradually increasing his holdings until he had 200 acres. He sold his land in 1905, and bought a section of land near Lost Springs, Kans., upon which he and his family are residing. Agnes, his wife, was born in 1861, and was eighteen years old when she emigrated from Bohemia to America. The marriage of Joseph Novak and Agnes Skolout took place in 1878 at St. Benedict's, and was blessed with nine children, as follows: Mrs. Agnes Koelzer, Auburn, Neb., mother of children as follows: Mathias, Nicholas and Emma; Sophia, wife of W. M. Kongs; Mrs. Anastasia Massat, Hanover, Kans.; Edward, a farmer near Lost Springs, Kans., has one child, namely, Ellen; Albert, at Lost Springs; Mrs. Anna Pospisl, Rockport, Mont., mother of two children, namely: Leroy and Edward; Chauncey and Ralph, at home with their parents.

**Charles S. Goodrich**, cashier of the Home State Bank of Goff, Kans., was born in Holton, Kans., February 9, 1881. He is a son of Judson S. and Almira Harton Goodrich, both natives of New York State.

Judson S. Goodrich was born May 17, 1842, near Worcester, N. Y. At the age of nine years, he, with his parents, moved to Wisconsin, following farming until 1870, when he moved to Farmington, Kans. In 1878 he moved to Holton. For eleven years he carried mail over a star route between Netawaka and Holton, making the trip daily by hack or horseback. He later engaged in the transfer business at Holton, which he followed until his physical condition made it necessary for him to retire from active life. Almira Harton Goodrich, mother of C. S. Goodrich, was born August 12, 1848, residing in New York State until her marriage to Judson S. Goodrich, December 2, 1868.

Charles S. Goodrich was reared in Holton, attending the public school of his native city. His banking career began at the age of eighteen years, when he entered the State Bank of Goff as bookkeeper. In 1900 and 1901 he attended Campbell College, returning to his post in the Goff bank. At the age of twenty-one he was made assistant cashier, and in 1904, when the First National Bank of Goff was organized, taking over the business of the State and the Farmers State Bank, the subject of this sketch was made cashier of the new institution, which position he filled until 1909, when he resigned to become cashier of the Home State Bank of Goff, then organizing.

He was married to Florence Fagan, September 22, 1909. Two children have been born to this union, namely: Helen and Harvard J. Mrs. Goodrich was born in Sabetha, Kans., December 20, 1884, and is a daughter of Thomas J. and Lois (King) Fagan, the former of whom was a native of Ireland, being educated in that country for a Catholic priest; but not being entirely satisfied, he left home at the age of eighteen years, coming to America and taking up the study of law. After his marriage, he, with his family, moved to Oklahoma. He was one of the first mayors of Oklahoma City.

Mrs. Goodrich is a graduate of the Sabetha High School, and taught in the public school of Goff three years, and at Corning one year, previous to her marriage.

C. S. Goodrich owns a quarter section of Nemaha county's farm land near Goff, besides several pieces of town property. He is president and director of the Goff Telephone Company, and his activities outside of his business affairs are worthy of commendable mention and rank him as one of the real leaders and workers of the community in which he resides. He is a staunch Republican in his political affiliations. He is a member and elder of the Goff Christian Church, and is serving his third year as president of the Nemaha County Sunday School Association. He is likewise fraternally allied with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. As a banker and active citizen he has made himself known and his influence in behalf of a better city has been marked, and he is ever found in the van of all movements tending to advance the interests of his home city and community.

**Willis Morrell**, owner of a general merchandise store at Goff, Kans., is one of the progressive business men of that locality. He carries an excellent stock of goods valued at \$4,000 and has cultivated a thriving list of customers which is constantly growing because of the courtesy and good service which Mr. Morrell renders.

He was born in Michigan, November 4, 1869, and is the son of Oren and Isabella (Tift) Morrell. The father was born in New York about 1839 and grew up on his father's farm. After finishing a district schooling, he remained on his father's farm until the opening of the Civil war, when he enlisted in the Government service. With the exception of the time thus spent in the service of his country, Mr. Morrell spent his life on the farm. In 1885 he came to Kansas, buying eighty acres in Adams township, which he farmed for five years, when he accepted an excellent offer to buy his farm. He rented a place for a short time and then moved near Burns, Kans., where he died in 1898. The mother, Isabella Tift, was also born in Michigan about 1845, and lived on her father's farm until her marriage in 1865. She is now living in Kansas City, Mo., with her daughter, Mrs. Nina Powell. She was the mother of six children. Willis, of whom this review treats; Andrew, barber, Kansas City, Mo.; Mrs. Nina Powell, widow, Kansas City, Mo.; Mrs. Edyth Tanner, whose husband is a mine operator in Cripple Creek, Colo.; John, deceased, and one child who died in infancy.

Willis Morrell was reared on the farm, and after a district schooling had been completed, he started out, at the age of seventeen, to make his own way. His first job was on a farm, where he worked seven years for \$16 a month. Then he rented eighty acres in Adams township and farmed five years for himself, after which he moved to Goff and worked in the general merchandise store run by J. G. Bickle until 1908. Having acquired some experience in conducting a merchandise business, he purchased a stock of \$1,500 worth of goods and started a store of his own.

He has operated this store since that time and has built up a substantial trade by the good service which he has rendered. The stock is much larger now than it was when he started in and a greater variety of goods is handled.

In 1894 he was married to Bessie B. Gettle, and one child, Veva, aged five years, was born to them. Mrs. Morrell is the daughter of William and Mary J. (Armstrong) Gettle. The father was born in Pennsylvania about 1852 and was reared in the rural district on his father's farm. At the age of eighteen he learned the plasterer's trade, which he followed for many years. In 1880 he came to Kansas and bought eighty acres in Adams township, Nemaha county, Kansas, where he made his home until his death in 1905. The farm was unimproved when he took charge of it, but he soon converted it into a modern, well-improved farm. The mother was born in Pennsylvania in 1853 and lived on her father's farm until her marriage in 1872. Seven children were born to her: Mrs. Iva Likens, wife of a farmer of Centralia, Kans., mother of Samuel, Erma, Lawrence and Eva; Mrs. Sarah Clark, wife of a Burlington (Kans.) farmer, mother of Frank, Hallen, Roy and Inez; Mrs. Mary Watkins, wife of a Goff real estate man, mother of Hazel, Fred, Lloyd and Janice; Mrs. Etta Finch, wife of a Muscotah merchant, mother of Glen and Pearl; Mrs. Bessie Morrell, wife of the subject of this biographical review; Roy, a farmer near Goff, father of Robert and Maxine; Alice, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Morrell was born July 31, 1875, and helped her parents work on the farm, both in the house and in the fields, before her marriage. She has always made herself useful wherever she was, and now that her husband is conducting a store, she helps him out by doing the clerical work, which she has taught herself. She works in the store every day and is as solicitous for the welfare of her husband's business as he is. It is largely this spirit of splendid co-operation which exists between them that enables the business to continue its success, and Mr. Morrell is greatly aided by having such a willing worker to assist him in the management of his business.

Mr. Morrell is a member of the Knights and Ladies of Security and is well known in Goff and vicinity.

**Chauncey M. Abbott**, traveling superintendent for Kirschbraum & Sons, of Omaha, is one of the best known business men in northern Kansas. He enjoys the close friendship of a great number of business men whom he has met in his work as traveling salesman and traveling superintendent. He was born September 11, 1883, in Goff, and is the only son of Edmund B. and Prudence (Scofield) Abbott, whose lives are recorded in this volume. After completing his grammar school education in 1899, he went to Havensville High School one year and from there to Campbell College at Holton, Kans., where he remained two years. At the end of his sophomore year he transferred to Baker University at Baldwin, Kans., where he studied one year. He left Baker University

to attend the Central Business College in Kansas City, Mo., where he prepared himself for commercial work. He then took a position with Kirschbraum & Sons, of Omaha, as road man. His work was so successful that in two years he was made manager of their plant at Goff, Kans. He so successfully executed the duties of the office that he was promoted at the end of five years to the position of field superintendent, a position which he now holds.

July 1, 1905, he was married to Vera E. Hindes, and to this union three children have been born: Rachel H. and Horace E., both deceased, and Mary A., aged four years. Mrs. Abbott is the daughter of Horace F. and Mary (Burch) Hindes. Her father was born in Milwaukee, Wis., May 15, 1857, and lived on a farm during his early years. When he was seven years old his father, who had enlisted in the Union army for the Civil war, was taken ill of fever and was sent to a hospital at Memphis, where he died. The father had enlisted in Wisconsin and served until December 4, 1863. Upon the death of the father, Horace Hindes was taken to live with his aunt, a sister of his father, in Rockford, Ill., where he received his schooling and made his home until he was sixteen years of age. Then he started out for himself and did various kinds of labor, including work in a creamery. In 1890, he organized a stock company to erect a creamery, and he was made general manager because of his ability in this industry. But in three years he had an opportunity to sell his stock at a general increased price and he immediately went from Tampico, Ill., where his first enterprise was launched, to Stella, Neb., and organized another company after the same plan he had employed at Tampico. He managed this for four years, and in 1897 the company dissolved and the creamery closed its doors. The following year Mr. Hindes moved to Goff, Kans., and took a position as manager of the branch wholesale house of Kirschbraum & Sons. For twelve years he directed the work of this branch house and was then sent out for three years as field superintendent. In this position, as in others which he had previously held, he proved a capable executive. Mr. Hindes began to feel the call of the farm and watched for a chance to purchase a good plot of land. Finally he bought 320 acres near Logan, Kans., and he is still living on this place. It is well improved and stocked with good horses and cattle. The mother of Mrs. Abbott, Mary (Burch) Hindes, was born in Union Grove, Ill., April 21, 1862, and was reared in the country. She was married November 22, 1882. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. To Mr. and Mrs. Hindes, three children were born: Vera E., wife of Mr. Abbott, of whom this history is written; Gladys M., musician, and Henrietta, who died in infancy. Gladys Hindes is an accomplished musician of wide renown, having toured the country on various Chautauqua and lyceum circuits. She is a graduate of the Peoria College of Music and of the Illinois Woman's College of Music at Jacksonville. She also spent two years studying with Prof. Loudonback at Atchison, Kans., and followed this with one term of study at the Horner Institute, in Kansas City, Mo.

Mrs. Vera Hindes Abbott was born March 14, 1886, at Prairie Center, Ill. She completed grammar school and was graduated from Goff High School in 1903. During the following two years she worked for her father in the creamery office. She is a member of the Methodist Church and of the Eastern Star lodge.

Mr. Abbott is a man of large ability and has achieved a reputation above the average. His work throughout has shown results and he has proved one of the best executives in the business. He is a young man and has a great future ahead of him.

**Edmund B. Abbott**, retired merchant, Goff, Kans., was born in Canada, July 18, 1845, and was reared in the country district and spent his boyhood working about the farm and going to the district school a few months each year. At the age of twenty, he went to the Academy of Bakersville, Canada, for four terms. He also spent four months in the military academy at Quebec, and was so efficient in his work that he was able to qualify as second lieutenant in the king's army. On leaving school he worked on the farm until he was twenty-eight years of age, when he migrated to Idaho and spent two years in the wild western country. Recrossing the border, he spent several years in Canada, and then came to Kansas, locating at Goff, where he engaged in the lumber business and also dealt extensively in live stock. This business held his interest almost exclusively until 1904, when he retired to enjoy the fruits of his long and intensive labors.

His parents were Chauncey and Mary (Carpenter) Abbott, who were the parents of five children: Isadore, deceased; Cynthia, deceased; Edmund B., of whom this sketch deals; Salina G., deceased, and Chandler C., deceased. The father was born in Canada near the site of Abbott's Corner, on October 17, 1807. He was a member of the Methodist church and was a devoted church worker and held the office of trustee for many years. That he was highly respected by his neighbors is shown by the fact that for many years he was the justice of the peace in his Canadian district and administered the functions of his office justly and with ability and efficiency.

His wife, Mrs. Mary Abbott, was born December 6, 1814, at St. Armond, East Canada, and grew up on her father's farm in that district. She lived at home until her marriage to Mr. Abbott, April 26, 1835, which was performed by the Rev. Matthew Lang, of their home Methodist church.

Edmund B. Abbott, of whom this biographical report is written, was married November 7, 1879, to Prudence Scofield, daughter of Lorenzo and Charlotte (Carpenter) Scofield. One son, Chauncey, was born to them. An extended account of his life will be found in this volume. Mrs. Abbott's father, Lorenzo Scofield, was born at St. Armond, East Canada, April 26, 1809, and was reared in that vicinity. He devoted his life to agriculture and lived the greater part of his life in Canada. He was a devout member of the Methodist church. Mrs. Abbott's mother



was born September 28, 1811, in the same village as her husband. She was married to Mr. Scofield, March 8, 1835, and they lived a long and happy life together. Like her husband, Mrs. Scofield was a member of the Methodist Church. Seven children were born to this union: Lucy J., deceased; William S., deceased; Jeremiah, deceased, capitalist at St. Albans, Vt.; David F., deceased; Patricia A., deceased; Prudence C., wife of Mr. Abbott, and Louis D., St. Albans, Vt.

Mrs. Abbott was born at St. Armond, East Canada, April 14, 1848, and was reared on her father's farm. As she was an unusually bright pupil, she developed an ambition to teach school, and as soon as possible she qualified herself for such a position. At the age of seventeen years she obtained a teaching position, and for twelve years she followed that profession in Canada and Vermont. Retiring from teaching at the end of that period, she returned to her parents, where she lived for two years, and then she was married to Mr. Abbott, in 1879. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and of the Eastern Star Lodge.

Mr. Abbott is one of the public-spirited men of his community and takes an active part in civic matters. Until recently, he served on the school board and the city council of Goff and was held in high respect for his efficient and capable work in those offices. He is a member of the Masonic order and of the Modern Woodmen of America. He usually votes the Democratic ticket.

**Philip J. Scott.**—Some of the interesting history of Marion township has been told around the fireside in the home of Philip J. Scott, farmer and stockman, on long winter evenings. His mother, Catharine (Hogan) Scott, was born January 14, 1833, in Ontario, Canada. She was the daughter of Patrick and Sarah (Burk) Hogan, natives of Ireland. Both parents died in Canada. Mr. and Mrs. Scott had been living in Nemaha county only a short time when an incident occurred which nearly proved fatal to Mrs. Scott, and of which she never tires of telling. It was one afternoon in 1876, while they were living on the Sullivan place, southwest of Baileyville. In those days many Indians lived around the country by stealing horses and grain, and often attacking houses and burning them. On this particular afternoon she was alone and out across the prairie she could see a band of red men coming. They came closer, and Mrs. Scott began to grow fearful. But when they were two miles away, neighbors went out and frightened them back and no harm was done. The Indians frequently came into the settlements and drove off the hogs belonging to the white people, but the hogs usually found their way back home. William Scott, the father of Philip, has also seen a very interesting part of Kansas history and before his death he used to tell story after story to the young folks who had not gone through the days which were more dangerous and uncertain. He was born in Ireland, February 26, 1828; and when a child he came to Canada with his parents. He was a son of William and Elizabeth Scott and his father followed farming. In 1870 the father of Philip Scott came to Nemaha





MRS. CATHARINE SCOTT AND FAMILY.



county, Kansas, where he worked as a laborer, mostly in Seneca. The following year he rented a farm, which he managed until 1877, when he homesteaded forty acres in Marion township, section 28. He put up a small one-room house 16x18 feet, with an additional small room above. He broke up this land and in 1881 bought another forty acres, thus making eighty acres, which amount he owned at his death in 1882. He was married, January 16, 1859, and the facts concerning his wife's life have already been related. She is now living with her son, Philip. Eight children were born to Philip's parents: Elizabeth, now Mrs. Sullivan, of Marion township, widow; Sarah, Mrs. Donnelly, of Center township; William, Center township; Mary, Mrs. Rice, of Baileyville; Richard, Marion township; Philip, of whom this biography is to deal in full; Ella, living at home; Agnes, Mrs. Anderson, Marion township. Mr. and Mrs. Scott were members of the Catholic Church.

Philip Scott attended district school in district No. 70, Marion township. He has always lived on the old home place, and since 1892 he has never missed a year feeding hogs and cattle, handling ten or twelve loads each year. He usually keeps two hundred head of cattle the whole year and buys hogs and cattle for the markets continually. His farm is also productive and nets him a comfortable return. He owns 515 acres of land at this time.

Mr. Scott is a Democrat in politics and in 1911 served a term as justice of the peace and later served a second term, his work being so satisfactory to the people of the township. He has always taken an interest in public affairs. Mr. Scott is not married. He is a regular attendant at church and contributes liberally to religious and charitable enterprises. For many years he has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and has held all offices in the Baileyville Lodge of Odd Fellows. Mr. Scott is a popular man in his community and is always a leader in public enterprises. His good judgment and wide acquaintance have made him unusually influential in the affairs of Marion township.

**Roy Roscoe Gilmore.**—For over half a century the Gilmore family have been tillers of the soil in Nemaha county, Kansas. During the early fifties Isaac Gilmore, grandfather of him whose name heads this biography came from his home near Pomeroy, Ohio, after selling the mineral rights of his 160-acre tract of valuable coal lands in Meigs county, Ohio, and bought two and one-half sections of prairie land in Nemaha county. He divided this land among his children, who left their old Buckeye State home and settled on the prairies of this county and developed splendid farms. The father of Roy R. Gilmore was Timothy Gilmore, who came to Kansas in 1865 and began to develop his tract of unbroken prairie land.

Timothy Gilmore, father of Roy R. Gilmore, was born in Ohio, December 22, 1843, and was a son of Isaac and Polly (Stivers) Gilmore, the former of whom was born at Marietta, Ohio, in 1821 and dying in July, 1864, and the latter was born in New York February 2, 1821, and died in

1905, a daughter of Benjamin and Sophronia Stivers, who immigrated to Meigs county, Ohio, in 1835. Six years later, 1841, the marriage of Isaac and Polly Gilmore took place. Timothy Gilmore assisted his father on the farm in Meigs county, Ohio,, until he attained the age of eighteen years and then enlisted in Company B, One Hundred and Sixteenth Ohio infantry, and served for three years in the Civil war. His company captain was Captain Keyes. He fought at the battles of Piedmont, Va., Fisher Hill, near Strausburg, Cedar Creek and Winchester (1864). He fought through the three days' battle of Winchester under General Sheridan and took part in the final rout of Early's command. His command was later detailed for field duty south of Petersburg, captured Fort Gregg, near Petersburg; followed Lee to Appomattox and witnessed Lee's surrender. The regiment remained at Richmond until June, 1866, and were then sent to their homes. In the fall of 1866, Timothy Gilmore came to Nemaha county, Kansas, and began developing the quarter section of land which his father had given him as his share of the estate which he obtained in exchange for his coal rights in Meigs county, Ohio. Not being very well fixed in funds when he first came to this State, he worked out as a farm hand for some time before making a permanent settlement on his place, which was wild, unbroken prairie. He first built a two-room frame house, to which he later added a single room addition. As time went on and his crops became better and better each year, and his prairie farm was stocked with cattle and horses, he felt able to build a modern home of twelve rooms in 1892. He also erected a large barn, 36x56x19 feet, in 1901. For many years Mr. Gilmore was an extensive stock raiser and specialized in high-grade Percheron horses, the sale of which at his demise brought the large total of \$2,600. He was also a specialist in the breeding of Berkshire hogs, which took many prizes and blue ribbons at the various stock shows. Not long after he began farming his first quarter section, he added 200 acres to his farm. This sturdy pioneer died in 1911 and his remains were interred in the Oneida cemetery. He was an honored member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Mr. Gilmore was married in June, 1867, to Harriet Vilott, who received the second marriage license granted in Nemaha county. His wife, Harriet Vilott, was born in Indiana, February 14, 1848, a daughter of James and Marian (Noble) Vilott, who immigrated to Kansas in January, 1865, and settled in Nemaha county. Seven children were born to Timothy and Harriet Gilmore, as follows: Mrs. Luella Briggs, Summerfield, Kans., mother of seven children, namely: Percy (deceased), Merle, Eunice, Naoma, Mildred, Lela and Helen; Mrs. Stella Burk, a widow, Emporia, Kans., has two children, Celia and Gloyd; Ira Lee Gilmore, lumberman, Oklahoma, has three children, Basil, Dale and Rosamond; Mrs. May Bloss, Seneca, Kans., has two children, Nelly May and Edmond C.; William C., living near Oneida, Kans., father of three children,

Howard, Gilbert and Cornelia; Roy Roscoe, subject of this review; Mrs. Inez Leftwich, Pittsburg, Pa., has one child, Morris M.

Timothy Gilmore was a prominent and influential leader of the Republican party in Kansas and served as central committeeman for several years. He was a delegate to State conventions on several occasions, but was never an office seeker. He preferred to take an active interest in politics solely for the love of the game, and during his career he assisted many friends to political preferment.

Roy R. Gilmore was born on the home place of his parents in Adams township, May 22, 1881. After completing the course of study prescribed in the district school of his neighborhood, he entered the State Agricultural College at Manhattan and studied for two years. Failing eyesight compelled him to relinquish his studies, however, and he took the short course in agriculture. He returned home from the college and for five years he tilled his father's acreage on the share plan. He then made a trip to California for his health and returned by way of Oregon and Washington, stopping on his return trip at Everett, Wash., for two months. Upon his return home he again farmed the Gilmore home place for four years, in the meantime building himself a four-room cottage across the highway from his father's home. He moved into this new home and has since remained there, cultivating his own farm of 120 acres.

Mr. Gilmore was married December 26, 1907, to Enid Lulu Keeler, a daughter of Morris and Alberta (Hostetter) Keeler. Morris Keeler, the father of Mrs. Gilmore was born in Connecticut and became a carpenter. He immigrated to Kansas at an early day and still follows his trade at Sabetha, Kans. Mrs. Gilmore was born April 14, 1883, and was reared on a farm. She graduated from the Sabetha High School and taught school for three years. For two years previous to her marriage she filled the post of cashier and bookkeeper in the Haines store at Sabetha. One child has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Roy R. Gilmore, Helen Margaret, aged six years.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore are members of the Methodist church, and Mr. Gilmore is affiliated with the Republican party. The Gilmores are popular in their home locality and have many warm and steadfast friends who esteem them for their many good qualities.

**Dr. James B. Roberts**, an Eclectic practitioner, is a well known professional man of Goff, Kans., and has a very large practice in this vicinity. Dr. Roberts is skilled in his specialty and enjoys the confidence of a large clientele because of his unquestioned integrity and high ethical standard as well as the attestation of many years of successful practice of the profession of medicine.

Dr. Roberts is a native of Indiana, and is a son of Thomas and Sarah A. (Anderson) Roberts, who were the parents of four children, whose names are as follows: Amanda, deceased; William, deceased; Jennie M., wife of Mr. Jones, retired, Kansas City, Mo., and James B.,

of whom this review is written. The father died when Dr. Roberts was a small boy, and little can be recalled of the incidents of his life. The mother was born in Ohio in 1829, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1897. She was reared on the farm and attended the district school; but her education was by no means confined to her school room instruction, for she was taught the household arts by her mother in the most thoroughgoing fashion, which was so widely followed in former years. This training included spinning and weaving. She lived with her parents until her marriage, which took place in 1857. Her husband's death caused her to sell the family farm in Indiana and move to Iowa, near Hartford, Warren county, where she lived with her brother-in-law, and by the hardest kind of work, managed to keep her children together. As soon as the little tots were large enough to work, they helped their mother shear the sheep by holding them while she deftly ran the shears over the animals. Then she carded, spun and wove the wool into cloth and made their clothing. After spending four years with her brother-in-law, her children were growing up, and she moved to Hamlin, Iowa, and kept house for the children. For five years her two oldest sons taught school and the struggling family lived in modest comfort by the earnings of the children and the careful management of the mother. Moving to Adel, Iowa, the sons, William and James, taught school at that place until the health of William began to break under the strain, and he was compelled to go to Colorado for his health. To accomplish this, William made the trip overland in a wagon driven by a span of mules, and stopped at Idaho Springs to recuperate. Six months later his brother, James, the subject of this biography, joined him and they engaged in mining. A year later the mother joined them, and during the next four years the two brothers worked desperately to save up money. Fortune favored them, and at the end of four years they had saved sufficient funds to enable them to study medicine. They returned to Iowa and attended the Eclectic Medical College, where they were graduated in 1891. William went to Nebraska, where he practiced until his death. The mother lived in Des Moines until her death, December 22, 1897.

When Dr. Roberts was twelve years old his economic manhood began. Although a boy a stature, he was made to carry the burdens of a man, for the income of the family lay largely on the initiative of Dr. Roberts and his brother, William. For several years he worked at anything which would bring a monetary return. One thing stands out in the life story of Dr. Roberts—he wanted an education, and he fought to gain the object of his ambition. One instance which is typical is his working three months at the wages of \$5 a month to get the \$15 necessary to attend the normal school to qualify as a teacher. He saved his money, and in 1888, began the study of medicine. After a successful course he was given the degree of Doctor of Eclectic Medicine, and began practicing in 1891. He practiced in Des Moines for three years

and then went to Springfield, Neb., where he joined his brother in the medical science. Upon the death of his brother, William, Dr. Roberts went to Kansas City for further study of the latest developments in medical science. He studied at the Eclectic Medical University there and was graduated in 1900. For the next thirteen years he practiced in Formosa, Kans., and then came to Goff, where he enjoys a large practice. Dr. Roberts stands very high in his profession, and he has contributed to several medical journals, including that of the Lloyd Brothers, of Cincinnati, and the "Eclectic Medical Journal," Kansas City, Mo.

He was married in 1884 to Belle Branson, and three children have been born to them: George, a barber in Medford, Ore.; Earle, machine shop foreman, Sioux Falls, S. D.; Farris, high school student. Mrs. Roberts is a daughter of Nathan and Mary (Retdig) Branson. Her father was born in Knoxville, Tenn., in 1831, and learned the cabinet maker's trade and the art of wagon making. He worked steadily at his two trades until 1861, when he enlisted in the Twelfth Illinois cavalry. He was in the skirmish at Harper's Ferry and was sent home sick shortly afterward, but speedily recovered and returned to the front, where he served continuously throughout the remainder of the war. On the completion of his term of service, he homesteaded twenty-five acres of timber land in Illinois, and lived there until 1879, when he sold out and moved to Springfield, Neb., where he remained until his death, in 1901. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and held several offices in his locality as a result of the respect and admiration of his fellow citizens.

He was married in 1857 to Mary Retdig, at Grumfield, Ill., and to this union ten children were born: John, farmer in Colorado, father of two children, Lula and William; Marion, express agent, Omaha, Neb., father of one child, Leon; Mrs. Tillie Bauner, Springfield, Neb., widow, mother of six children, Boyd, Beulah, Ada, Ernest, Louise, Walter; Isabelle, wife of Dr. Roberts; Mrs. Lettie Monford, Chadron, Neb., of Walter and Donald; Mrs. Dollie Minturn, whose husband is a stock farmer, mother of Raymond and Irene. The other three children are not living.

Mrs. Roberts was born January 15, 1871. She attended the grammar schools and learned the milliner's trade, which she followed at Springfield, Neb., for six years. She is active in the work of the Christian Adventist Church, and is likewise prominent in the activities of the Royal Neighbors lodge, of which she is a member.

Dr. Roberts is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is past grand master of the latter order. He votes the Democratic ticket, but is too busy with his practice to do active political work. He is a prominent citizen of Goff and is well known and admired by a large number of residents of this township.

**Gottlieb Schneider.**—Whenever you find a settlement of German or Swiss emigrants, there you find a country of prosperous and enterprising homes, whose owners are usually well-to-do and are ambitious for themselves and their progeny. Gottlieb Schneider, well-to-do farmer of Adams township, of Swiss birth, is a striking example of the successful foreign born American citizen, who has risen to a place of prominence and substance in the land of his adoption. \*

Gottlieb Schneider was born in Switzerland, October 8, 1893, and is a son of Albert and Elizabeth (Schneider) Schneider. Albert, his father, was born in 1811, and died at his Swiss home in 1863. Elizabeth, his wife, and mother of the subject, was born in Switzerland in 1830, married in 1855 and lived in her native land until 1883, and then immigrated with her family to America, first locating in Cleveland, Ohio, where she resided until 1888, and then migrated to Kansas, locating in Brown county, where she was housekeeper for her son, Gottlieb, for two years. She then returned to Cleveland, Ohio, and lived in that city for twenty-seven years, finally returning to Switzerland, where her demise occurred in 1898. The children of the Schneider family are as follows: Jacob, a machinist of Cleveland, Ohio, and father of three children; Albert, Edward, Mrs. Elsie York, mother of one child; Gottlieb, the subject of this review, who left his native land when seventeen years of age (in 1880) and immigrated to America. He located in Cleveland, Ohio, and worked in the machine shops, plying his trade of skilled machinist for four years.

In 1884, Mr. Schneider came West to Jackson county, Kansas, and worked as farm hand for \$15 per month for four years, and then rented eighty acres of land for a year, after which he again hired out for \$25 per month and boarded himself in a residence furnished him by his employer. One year later he again rented sixty acres in Jackson county, which he farmed for two years, then moved to Brown county, Kansas, where he rented 160 acres for three years, after which he rented 160 acres in Adams township, Nemaha county, and served as overseer of a 480-acre farm owned by M. Schaible, of Brown county. He looked after the Schaible farm for one year, then rented 160 acres more land and farmed it for one year. Mr. Schneider is owner of 160 acres of land in Adams township and is still renting the Schaible farm of 320 acres. He is an extensive live stock man and favors the Duroc Jersey breed of hogs. His farm produces well and he cultivates 200 acres of corn annually, some of which is sold for seed to the extent of \$150 yearly.

Mr. Schneider was married December 26, 1889, to Fredericka Landle, a daughter of Frederick and Mary M. (Roehm) Landle, and this union has been blessed with six children, as follows: Herman, a farmer in Jefferson county, Kansas; Walter, at home; Mrs. Lillie Pugh, wife of a farmer near Seneca, has one child, Lloyd; George, Anna and Harold, at home. Frederick Landle, father of Mrs. Schneider, was born in Baden, Germany, was a factory employee and died in his native land when Mrs. Schneider was three years old. Mrs. Mary M. Landle was



born in Germany in 1842, and died in her native land in 1911. There were three children in the Landle family, namely: Christina Ruhe, California, mother of four children, Mrs. Rosa Roehm, Mrs. Louise Buerr, Mrs. Amy Gossler, and Robert; Fredericka, wife of Gottlieb Schneider; Mrs. Louise Jenni, Germany, mother of four children. Mrs. Fredericka Schneider was born October 7, 1867, and was reared in her native village in Germany. When ten years of age she worked out for \$25 per year until she was twenty years old, and then came to America, where she worked as domestic for \$2 per week for two years and was then married.

Mr. and Mrs. Schneider are members of the German Evangelical Church.

**August Thiem**, farmer and stockman, Adams township, was born in Germany, September 10, 1856, and is a son of August and Rosa (Ciller) Thiem. August Thiem, father of the subject, was born in Saxony, Germany, in 1831, and began his own career in 1852, at which time he was married and farmed in his native land until his immigration to America in 1883. He located on an eighty-acre farm near Goff, Kans., and built up a fine farm from unbroken prairie. He became well-to-do and was the owner of 280 acres of land. He has given land to his children and grandchildren and still owned 160 acres at the time of his demise in 1903. To August and Rosa Thiem were born the following children: William, Henry, Carl, Edward, Mathilda and Mrs. Theresa (Bern), deceased; Paul, a farmer in Nemaha county; Oswald, farming in Nemaha county; August, with whom this review is concerned, and who was the first born of nine children. The mother of the foregoing children was born in 1833, and died in Kansas in 1909.

August Thiem, subject of this review, began life for himself when twenty-five years old, and worked as farm laborer for two years after his immigration to America in 1881. His first year's wages were \$70, and in 1882 he made a first payment on eighty acres of land, and in 1884 began working for his father and continued tilling his father's land until his marriage in 1889, and in the following year he moved to his own farm, after he had completed the erection of the necessary buildings thereon. Mr. Thiem has added to his holdings until he now has a fine farm of 300 acres, well improved and highly productive. He is a breeder of Poland China hogs and Durham cattle, and is building up herds of these fine animals.

Mr. Thiem was married in 1889 to Anna Trache, and this union has been blessed with the following children: Mr. Elsie Grustye, Adams township; Emma, Eitel, Arthur, Edward, Walter, Leon, Herbert and Karl, at home with their parents. Mrs. Anna Thiem was born in Saxony, Germany, August 6, 1862, and is a daughter of Gottlieb and Christina (Coach) Trache. Gottlieb Trache, her father, was born in 1829, and farmed in his native country until 1881, and then came to America, settling on a forty-acre farm in Wisconsin, which he cultivated until

1893; at which time he sold out and came to Nemaha county, Kansas, and resided with his daughter, Mrs. Thiem. His wife, Christina, was born in 1830, and died in 1867. Mrs. Thiem immigrated to this country when she was nineteen years old and worked out as a domestic for \$2 per week, remaining in one situation for four years and two months previous to her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Thiem are loyal members of the German Lutheran Church. Mr. Thiem is an independent in politics and is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America.

**Thomas Henry.**—Were all of the stories of trials and tribulations of the early Kansas settlers printed they would fill several respectable volumes of large size; the stories of the early pioneers of Nemaha county, for instance, would make interesting reading were they told in suitable manner for recording. The life history of Thomas Henry, of Adams township, Kansas pioneer, and the tale of his rise from the direst poverty to a position of substance in the community reads like a tale from modern fiction, and will serve as a valuable lesson for his progeny to remember in future years.

Thomas Henry was born in Bavaria, Germany, September 6, 1855, and is a son of George and Eliza (Dougle) Henry, the former having been born in Bavaria, Germany, in 1827; married Eliza Dougle in 1852, and immigrated to America in 1872. George Henry located at Wetmore, Nemaha county, Kansas, and worked out by the month for a year; but, unfortunately, he received no wages because his employer had suffered the misfortune of having his crops destroyed by the grasshoppers and had no money to pay wages. He offered Mr. Henry his choice of taking the best horse in the barn for his pay or remaining on the farm and working for his board. He chose the latter course, as a horse would have been a decided incumbrance in those days, with no feed in existence to keep the animal alive. He stayed on his employer's farm and killed and dressed chickens for the Atchison market, and after the hard times had somewhat abated, he rented a tract of land in partnership with Nick Pfrang and cultivated it for six years. He then rented eighty acres for a cash rent of \$75 for two years. He sold off his live stock, etc., and pre-empted 160 acres of land in Kingman county, Kansas, proving up on the same in six months, and resided thereon until his demise in 1888. His wife, Eliza, was born in Bavaria, in 1828, and died in her native land in 1871. George and Eliza Henry were the parents of seven children, as follows: Thomas, the subject of this review; Nicholas is retired at Goff, Kans.; Adolph is a farmer in Germany; Andrew is farming in Mitchell township; Lizzie, deceased; Margaret, in Germany; Mrs. Katie Choenlau, Oklahoma.

Thomas Henry began doing for himself when fifteen years of age, worked four years in a brewery and then served in the German army until he was twenty-three years old. His army service was followed by three years' service in a brewery, during which time he saved money enough to pay his passage to America. He left Germany enroute to

the United States, June 7, 1881, and arrived at Wetmore, Kans., July 1, 1881. He located in Wetmore township, Nemaha county, Kansas, where he was employed for four months in railroad section work, followed by six months in railroad construction work in western Kansas, and his subsequent return to Nemaha county. After working as farm hand for one year he rented eighty acres and farmed on his own account for a year, following which he purchased 160 acres of land in Kingman county, Kansas. For five years he tried desperately to earn a living for himself and wife on his Kingman county farm, but failed to do so. Times got so hard with him that he was forced to give his note with approved security in order to buy a \$3 pair of shoes, and he finally left his farm and took up railroad work in Colorado in order to earn sufficient money to provide the necessities of life for himself and his. He relinquished his farm to a loan company, which assumed his \$1,100 mortgage, and promised him \$25 for the title to the land, but never paid the money. He moved his family to Colorado and left his live stock in his brother's charge, later selling the animals for \$94. He remained in Colorado until 1894, and then decided to try Kansas farming once more, this time, however, in Nemaha county. He returned to this county and bought eighty acres of land for \$1,100 and farmed it for some years until 1909, then rented his place and bought 186 acres (his present home place) in Adams township. Some time later, Mr. Henry sold his 160 acres, which he had accumulated in Wetmore township, and has since devoted his entire time and attention to the development of his Adams township farm. He has a fine seven-room farm residence and has a large modern barn, built in 1911, and other excellent improvements on his place. Success has come to him in these later years and he has prospered to the extent that he is one of the representative and substantial citizens of his county.

Mr. Henry was married, October 28, 1883, to Theresa Martin, in Wetmore, who has borne him children, as follows: The first born died in infancy; Mrs. Mary Gudenkauf, on a farm near Kelly, Kans., mother of four children; George, a farmer at Ordway, Colo., father of two children; John, with George in Colorado; Mrs. Rosa Mandable, on a farm in Nemaha county, has one child; Joseph, Fred and Carl, at home; Elizabeth, deceased; Louis and Thomas, also at home with their parents. The mother of this family was born in Bavaria, Germany, January 20, 1863, and is a daughter of Valentine and Barbara (Pfrang) Martin. Valentine Martin was born in Bavaria, Germany, in 1838, and died in 1878. He was the only son of Fright and Barbara Martin, the latter of whom died in Germany. He left his native land after his marriage and immigrated to America in 1871, locating at Wetmore, Kans., where he rented 160 acres for one year, then moved to a rented farm near Seneca, upon which he lived for two years previous to buying a homestead of eighty acres. He sold his homestead two years later and then rented 160 acres in Harrison township for two years, after which he rented 160

acres five miles north of Seneca and farmed it for six years. His untimely death in 1878 was caused by a runaway team. Barbara, wife of Valentine Martin, was born in 1833 and died in 1910. She worked out for \$25 per year until her marriage. After Mr. Martin's death she lived on the family farm for three years and then bought an eighty-acre farm in Wetmore township, which was without improvements. She and her second husband, Andrew Capp, with the help of her children, broke up the land and erected a home and buildings on the tract and lived upon her farm until 1909. She then sold out and moved to a home in Seneca, dying July 22, 1910. After the demise of her first husband she married Andrew Capp in 1880, who still resides at Seneca. Nine children were born to Valentine and Barbara Martin, as follows: Maggie and Agnes, deceased; Theresa, wife of Thomas Henry; Mrs. Barbara Gress, on a farm in Nemaha county; Mrs. Anna Sherlock, Adams township; George, a farmer of Nemaha county; John, Seattle, Wash.; Mrs. Mary Quinlan, Gilman township; Joseph, died at the age of seven months. Theresa Henry worked as domestic for two years at fifty cents per week in Seneca, and when she was thirteen years old, worked for John P. Cone at seventy-five cents per week, and it is one of the sad experiences of the stay at Mr. Cone's house that she set fire to some goods used as covering for fruit and was docked \$1.50 damages on account of the accident.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry and children are all loyal and devout members of the Catholic Church. Mr. Henry is a member of the Farmers' Union and usually votes the Democratic ticket.

**Peter P. Waller.**—The younger generation of farmers are prone to specialize; many of them believe thoroughly in the more advanced methods of farming, and do not fear to venture into special departments of agriculture which admit of greater rewards to the man of intellect and industry who closely applies his talents in the right direction. Improvement in the class of animals on the farms of the west is gradually coming about and is due to the venturesome specialists in animal husbandry who insist upon having only the best thoroughbred varieties of livestock which they can obtain. These in turn sell the product of their breeding stables to others who also desire to improve their herds with better meat producing strains. Peter P. Waller, farmer and breeder, of Adams township, Nemaha county, is one of those specialists in animal husbandry who is making a success of breeding Hereford cattle and whose herd of fifteen head is of the best strain obtainable.

Mr. Waller was born on a farm near Seneca, Kans., February 8, 1886, and is a son of Wenzel Waller, a native of Austria, born March 14, 1850. Wenzel Waller immigrated to America in 1868, first located in St. Louis, but worked in several mid-western States as harvest hand and laborer until 1871. He then came to Nemaha county and bought 120 acres near Oneida. He prospered and added land from time to time until he became owner of 640 acres in Nemaha county and 240 acres in Colo-

rado. Wenzel Waller was married in 1872 to Magdalena Kizer, born in Germany in 1855 and came to America with her parents when she was an infant eighteen months old. She was reared to young womanhood in Wisconsin. Ten children have blessed this marriage as follows: Wenzel, deceased; John, on the Waller home place; Joseph, farming in Colorado; Mrs. Marguerite Aziere, on a farm near Kelly; Mrs. Elizabeth Lierz, living on a farm near Seneca; Mrs. Oplonia Christman, residing on the home place; Peter P., subject of this review; Mrs. Mary Boding, living on a farm near Kelly; Mrs. Annie Sack, living on a farm near Seneca; Mrs. Josephine Nordhaus, on a farm near Seneca.

Peter P. Waller was reared to become a farmer and worked at home with his parents until he was twenty-three years old. He then rented a farm from his father, located about six miles east of Seneca, consisting of 320 acres in Adams township and is cultivating this farm to his profit. Mr. Waller specializes in white-faced Hereford cattle, of which breed he has fifteen pure bred stock and twenty head of grade stock. During 1915 he exhibited ten head of his fine Herefords and was awarded five blue ribbons, three red and two yellow ribbons, his exhibit easily leading all others at the livestock exhibit. Mr. Waller keeps Duroc Jersey swine and aims to maintain enough livestock on his place to consume the grain which he raises. He has out this year ten acres of wheat and 150 acres in corn, besides roughage.

Mr. Waller was married February 17, 1909 to Mary Rollman, daughter of John and Catharine (Young) Rollman. Three children have been born to this union: Wenzel P., born March 2, 1910; Francis P., born January 25, 1913, and Kathleen Marion, born May 5, 1915. Mrs. Mary Waller, mother of the foregoing children, was born in Meade county, Kansas, April 16, 1887, and began working out at the age of fifteen years. She followed dressmaking previous to her marriage with Mr. Waller. John Rollman, her father, was born in Germany in 1848 and immigrated to America in 1884 and farmed for four years in Meade county, Kansas. He then went to Colorado and homesteaded for two years, left his claim and returned to Kansas, where he died in 1892. Kathleen, his wife, was born in Germany on November 22, 1859, worked as a domestic until her marriage in 1884, followed by her immigration to America with her husband. John and Kathleen Rollman were the parents of seven children, as follows: Joseph, an engineer in Canada; Mary, wife of Peter P. Waller; Annie, Laurence and Anna, deceased; Peter, Leavenworth; Katie, Seneca, Kans. Mrs. Rollman married John Banks, a native of Italy, in 1894. Mr. Banks was born in Italy in 1844, immigrated to America in 1874, began farming in 1886 and died in 1912. Four children were born of this marriage: Annie, Willie, Mathew, deceased, and Gertrude, a high school student.

Mr. and Mrs. Waller are members of the Catholic Church of Seneca. Mr. Waller is a Democrat in politics and is affiliated with the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association.

**William H. Sherrard**, trustee of Adams township, and owner of a fine farm of 157 acres, was born in Putnam county, Ohio, December 2, 1855, and is a son of John C. and Anna M. (Waggener) Sherrard, the former of whom was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, April 15, 1831, and died January 2, 1909. John Sherrard was left fatherless when he was five years old, and at the age of twelve years he was the practical head of the family. He remained with his mother until he was twenty-three years of age, then married and started in life for himself. He followed the trade of carpenter for a few years and then began farming on rented land. He removed to Putnam county, Ohio, and lived there on a farm until his removal to Atchison, Kans., from which city he drove overland to Sabetha, Kans., November 1, 1868, accompanied by his brother-in-law. They rented land for four years three and one-half miles south of Sabetha and then bought 120 acres of land in Capioma township, in partnership with his son, William H. He developed his farm and lived thereon for twelve years, then engaged in the grain and elevator business at Oneida, Kans., for a period of six years. After disposing of his elevator and farm he bought a tract of thirty-one acres in Oneida and resided there until his demise in 1909. John Sherrard was a member and officer of the Methodist Episcopal church and was affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He was married in 1854 to Anna M. Waggener, born in Athens county, Ohio, in 1834, and who was a teacher prior to her marriage. They were the parents of eight children, as follows: William H., subject of this review; Mrs. Mary E. Stewart, a widow living in Portland, Ore.; James C., living on a farm near Oneida, and father of seven children, three of whom were killed in a cyclone; Edwin S., farmer near Oneida, has three children; John E., police judge at Mul-S., farmer near Oneida, has three children; John E., police judge and mine owner at Mullen, Idaho; George U., traveling for a Louisville tobacco firm with headquarters at Salt Lake City, father of one child; Charles P., deceased, and Guy, Arcadia, Kans.

William H. Sherrard resided with his parents until he was twenty-five years old and then rented eighty acres of land in Capioma township for two years, after which he bought eighty acres within two miles of Woodlawn, Kans., erected thereon a house 22x24 feet, with six rooms, together with a barn and other out buildings. He resided on this farm until 1909, then sold it and purchased 157 acres in Adams township, which is his present home. Mr. Sherrard has practically retired from active farming and his land is being cultivated by his son-in-law, Arthur Farnham.

Mr. Sherrard was married to Eliza Johnson, March 15, 1882, and two children have been born to this union: Mrs. Ina B. Bridson, Perry, Kans., and mother of a son, Gale H., and Mrs. Grace E. Farnham, whose husband is operating the Sherrard farm.

Mrs. Eliza (Johnson) Sherrard was born December 22, 1859, and is a daughter of William and Mary (Lafferty) Johnson, the former of

whom was born in Ireland in 1831, left an orphan at the age of seven, and was thrown upon his own resources. He immigrated to America at the age of nineteen and located in Pennsylvania, where he was employed in the lime quarries. In 1858 he removed to Illinois and farmed there until 1870, and then immigrated to Nemaha county, Kansas, buying 160 acres of land in Capioma township. He developed a fine farm and resided thereon until his demise, April 14, 1908. His wife, Mary, was born in Ireland in 1835 and was married to Mr. Johnson in Pennsylvania, in 1857. There were ten children born to William and Mary Johnson, as follows. Eliza, wife of W. H. Sherrard; Ella, deceased; Mrs. Sarah Reed, a widow with five children, living on a farm near Woodlawn, in Capioma township; Margaret, deceased; Samuel H., Oneida, Kans., trustee of Gilman township; William E., trustee of Rock Creek township; Anise, deceased; Mrs. Ida Foster, whose husband is treasurer of Capioma township, mother of three children; Albert J., druggist at Falls City, Neb.; Mrs. Della Carpenter, Rock Creek township.

Mr. Sherrard is a Democrat in politics and is one of the leaders of his party in Nemaha county. He is the present trustee of Adams township and held the office of trustee of Capioma township when he was twenty-two years of age. He and Mrs. Sherrard are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Sherrard is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America, of which lodge he was the efficient clerk for eighteen years.

**John A. Heinen**, owner of 160 acres of farm land in Gilman township, is a son of Arnold and Isabella (Colyer) Heinen, natives of Prussia. Mr. Heinen is one of the progressive and enterprising farmers of Nemaha county, who has worked his way upward to a competence during the thirty-three years of his residence in Kansas. He is a veteran of the Civil war and has a war record of which his descendants may well be proud. Although Mr. Heinen has passed the allotted three score years and ten, and his life has been spent in hard labor, he is still vigorous, mentally and physically.

Arnold Heinen, his father, was born in Prussia in 1818, and immigrated to America in 1852. He stopped in New Orleans for two months after landing from the steamship which conveyed him and his family across the seas and waited until the ice had gone out of the Mississippi river so that the steamer could carry him to his destination in Illinois. When navigation was again resumed he took a steamer for Bridge-town, Ill., and resided in that town and worked at common labor until 1862. In the meantime he had been saving his money and was enabled to buy 120 acres of land ten miles distant from Bridgetown, and there moved his family. His first farm home was a rude log hut, 10x10 feet in size, and it was necessary for Mr. Heinen to clear his land of a heavy growth of timber. By the time of his demise in October, 1882, he had eighty acres cleared and a comfortable home erected and was in fair circumstances. He was a member of the Dutch Reformed Church. His



wife, Isabella, was born in Prussia in 1820, and she and Arnold Heinen were married in 1840. They were the parents of six children, as follows: John A., subject of this review; Jacob, retired farmer of Wetmore, Kans.; Mrs. Sophia Ingle, living on the old home place in Illinois; Mrs. Tillie Mulhart, retired at Wetmore, Kans.; Amanda, deceased; one died in infancy. The mother of these children died in 1884.

John A. Heinen was born in a Prussian village, March 11, 1843, and when he was two years old he was taken and reared by his father's brother until he attained the age of nine years. He then accompanied his parents to America and was reared on the pioneer farm in Illinois. As soon as he was strong enough he began working to assist in the support of the family and did all kinds of hard labor, such as working in a brick yard at twenty-five cents per day and farm work at from \$8 to \$10 per month.

He enlisted for service in the Union army, August 12, 1862, and served as a member of an Illinois company until his honorable discharge from the service, August 3, 1865. Mr. Heinen was engaged in many great battles during the Civil war, and was in the following engagements: Jackson, Tenn.; Champion Hills, Black River, siege and capture of Vicksburg, and was at the second fight at Jackson, Miss., in August, 1863. His command then went into winter quarters at Black River, and he was one of sixty men detailed for mounted scout duty. Later, his company was a part of the command which chased Price's army through Tennessee, and again went into winter quarters at Memphis, in 1863 and 1864. In the spring of 1864 his company was given six days' rations and sixty rounds of ammunition and sent on scout duty. On a forced march to Germantown they met the enemy and the Union forces suffered defeat and lost their supplies, and were forced to retreat to Memphis. Soon after his arrival at Memphis, Mr. Heinen suffered a sunstroke, and on June, 14, 1864, was sent to the hospital, where he remained until December 14, 1864. He then joined his regiment at Nashville, Tenn., and took part in the battles around that city. From Nashville his command returned to Memphis, thence to St. Louis, and from there to New Orleans, where they remained for two months previous to going to Fort Morgan, across the Gulf of Mexico. From Fort Morgan he marched to Mobile, Ala., and took part in the heavy engagements at that place, April 7, 1865, and at Fort Blakely, April 9, where his last battle was fought.

In the spring of 1866, Mr. Heinen rented a farm and followed agricultural pursuits in Illinois until his removal to Kansas in 1883. He bought 160 acres of good land near Oneida, in Gilman township, Nemaha county, in section 28, and has made his home on this tract continuously for thirty-three years.

Mr. Heinen was married in 1870 to Rosa Heck, a daughter of Fred Heck, who was born in Germany in 1802; immigrated to the United States in 1854; located in Indiana and followed the trade of wagon



maker; moved to Illinois and farmed, and came to Kansas with Mr. Heinen and made his home with him until his demise in 1886. There were two children in the Heck family, namely: Rosa, wife of John A. Heinen, and one child died in infancy. Mrs. Rosa Heinen was born in Prussia, October 26, 1845, and began working out as a domestic when ten years old and continued in domestic service until her marriage with Mr. Heinen in Illinois. She is a member of the Methodist Church and the Woman's Relief Corps.

Nine children have been born to John A. and Rosa Heinen, namely: Fred, a farmer near Abilene, Kans., has two children; Mrs. Lizzie Bobbet, on a farm in Adams township, has two sons; Jacob, farmer near Centralia, Kans., has a daughter; Mrs. Belle Pierce, first born of the family, wife of a blacksmith at Axtell, Kans.; Mrs. Emma Garber, on a farm in Adams township, mother of one child; John, farming near Oneida, Kans.; Mrs. Frances Campfield, at home, mother of one child; William, on a farm near Centralia; one child died in infancy.

John A. Heinen is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is a Republican in politics. He is affiliated with the Grand Army of the Republic and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

**Frederick W. Funk**, farmer, Gilman township, Nemaha county, Kansas, was born August 20, 1878, on a farm near Oneida, and is a son of John and Magdalene Funk, whose biographies appear elsewhere in this history of Nemaha county. Frederick W. Funk was reared on his father's farm and received a district school education. He assisted his father in operating the home farm until he attained his majority, and he then rented a tract of 160 acres from his father, which he cultivated until 1914. In the meantime he had invested his savings in a farm of seventy-five acres two miles east of the home place in 1910. He moved to this farm in 1914, and his sister and her husband who had been managing this farm, moved to the Funk homestead in order to keep house for John Funk, the father. Mr. Funk is beginning to breed Jersey cattle on his place, and has a nice herd started with four thoroughbred Jersey cows, and it is his intention to specialize in Jerseys exclusively. His poultry are also worthy of mention, and are of the Rhode Island Red variety.

Mr. Funk was married February 28, 1904, to Miss Maud E. Graham, daughter of Benjamin F. and Josephine (Tasker) Graham of Seneca, Kans., to whose biography the reader is referred for a history of the Graham family. Two children have been born of this union, as follows: Clifford, aged eight years, and Marguerite, born on the old Funk homestead. Mrs. Maud E. Funk was born on a farm near Baileyville, Kans., November 2, 1877, and was reared in Seneca. When eighteen years old, she began clerking in the Seneca stores, and was thus employed for seven years in Seneca and Topeka, Kans. One of the heirlooms in possession of Mr. and Mrs. Funk is a large mirror, six feet, nine inches in height, by thirty inches wide, fitted in a massive plaster frame and extra large French beveled. This mirror was brought from Brooklyn, N. Y., and is

over one hundred years old. Mr. Funk is a Republican in politics, and he and Mrs. Funk are an energetic, ambitious couple who are destined to succeed in the land of their birth as their pioneer parents succeeded before them.

**Simon Armstrong.**—The career of the late Simon Armstrong, of Home township, in its recital is an epitome of a wonderful success achieved by a poor Scottish homesteader, who preempted land in section 10 of Home township over fifty years ago. He was of that sturdy strain which knows no weariness and are universally successful as stockmen the world over. Mr. Armstrong devoted his entire attention to the raising and feeding of cattle and made large earnings where others who had the same opportunities in Kansas failed. At his death he had the satisfaction of bequeathing to his children the large estate of 1,200 acres, which, when divided, made exactly a quarter section of land for each child.

Simon Armstrong was born in Scotland, May 4, 1829, and was reared to young manhood amid the crags and peaks of his native country. He grew up sturdy and strong as well as ambitious to immigrate to America and make his fortune. He came to this country when a young man and first settled in Iowa, where he worked out as a farm hand until 1865. In that year he came to Nemaha county, Kansas, and homesteaded 160 acres in section 10 of Home township, which is still the home place of the family, and where his widow resides. His work in Nemaha county was one of the greatest successes ever known in the history of Nemaha, and he died a very wealthy man and a large land owner. Probably his greatest pleasure and satisfaction was gleaned from the fact that he could bequeath to each of his eight children a farm of 160 acres as a reward for their assistance while he was accumulating a fortune. He departed this life in 1902, and was sincerely mourned as a sturdy and upright citizen.

Mr. Armstrong was married in 1874 to Miss Emma Vautravers, and this marriage resulted in the birth of the following children: Fred, a farmer in Home township; Mrs. Margaret S. Mooney, Home township; John, a farmer in Home township; Lewis, cultivating the home place; Mrs. Rosa Stout, Mrs. Louise Bryan, Roy and Jessie, all living in Home township. Mr. Armstrong was a member of the Congregational church, of which denomination Mrs. Armstrong and all of her children are members. Mrs. Armstrong was born in Switzerland, December 20, 1852, and was a daughter of David Fred and Sophia (Bonjour) Vautravers, who emigrated from Switzerland in 1854 and settled in the French colony of Neuchatel township, where Mr. Vautraver's homesteaded. They were the parents of seven children, the first of whom, a son, to be born in Kansas, died, and was buried in a dry goods box, which served for a coffin, on the home place. Times were hard for the settlers in those early days and Mrs. Armstrong knew what real hardships were in her younger days. She attended school in a log hut and



SIMON ARMSTRONG.



MRS. EMMA ARMSTRONG.



never received very much schooling. When she was nine years old she worked out among the neighbors in order to lighten the load which her parents were forced to bear in supporting their growing family. She received a wage of \$2 per week and remained at home during the winter seasons and assisted in making the clothing worn by the members of the family. She was once employed by a Mrs. Friend in Seneca, Kans., when thirteen years old. She remained with the Friend family for eight months and so faithfully did she keep house for them that they fell in love with her and wished to adopt her as their own. She as well as her brothers and sisters were reared in a log cabin and their nearest trading point was Ft. Leavenworth, where their father journeyed to get flour and other provisions.

The early home of the Vautravers family was located in the northern part of Neuchatel township. Mrs. Armstrong resides on her own farm of 120 acres, and has a good nine-room residence as her place of abode, which was erected in 1892. This home sits far back from the road and is surrounded by trees and shrubbery and in the distance are seen several acres of natural timber.

**William Curtis Gilmore—"The Blue Grass Stock Farm."**—The individual who enlarges his sphere of usefulness to his community beyond the borders of his own personal achievement field and endeavors to further the cause of better farming methods if he be an agriculturist, is conferring a distinct benefit upon his fellow men and making a name and place for himself which will outlive the mere fact of his own personal success. In William Curtis Gilmore, progressive farmer of Gilman township, the community has a useful citizen who ranks as one of the leaders in his vocation in Nemaha county and who has for many years been an advocate of more advanced farming methods.

William Curtis Gilmore, owner of the "Blue Grass Stock Farm," of 360 acres, in Gilman township, was born in Adams township, July 18, 1879, and is a son of Timothy Gilmore, deceased pioneer settler of Nemaha county. (See biography of Roy R. Gilmore for complete history of the Gilmore family.) After finishing the district school, William C. Gilmore studied for three terms at Campbell University, Holton, Kans. When he became nineteen years of age he taught one term of school and then went to Oklahoma, where he was engaged in the lumber business for nine months. After returning home he farmed and taught school for another winter and then rented land from his father for a year. He then moved on 160 acres of his present farm, which was his wife's inheritance, and has since specialized in fine livestock. Mr. Gilmore deals in Percheron horses, and is a breeder of shorthorn cattle, Duroc Jersey swine and R. C. B. Leghorn poultry. While he has never made a practice of exhibiting his fine live stock, Mr. Gilmore has met with more than the average success as a livestock breeder.

Mr. Gilmore was married February 25, 1903, to Miss Marion Wetmore, and this union has been blessed with three children, as follows:

Howard, aged eleven years; Gilbert, aged five years, and Cornelia, aged three years. Mrs. Gilmore was born on a farm near Oneida, July 10, 1881, and was educated in the district school and Oneida High School. She is a daughter of George A. and Cornelia (Wikoff) Wetmore. George A. Wetmore was born in New York, July 9, 1842, and was thrown upon his own resources by the death of his father when he was twelve years old. His mother remarried and his stepfather drove him away from home. A sister, who was earning her own living by teaching school, gave the homeless boy money with which to pay his train fare to the home of a married sister in Illinois, and he made his home with her until his marriage in 1865. After farming on his own account in Illinois, he immigrated to Gilman township, Nemaha county, Kansas, and bought 160 acres of land, and two years later he bought 200 acres, which he cultivated until his removal to a home in Seneca in 1901. He lived at Seneca until 1909 and then returned to his farm and resided with his married daughter for two years. He then married Sara Cox at Oneida, Ill., November 22, 1910, and made his home at Oneida, Ill., until his death, October 24, 1914. During his lifetime, Mr. Wetmore lived in Oneida, N. Y., Oneida, Kans., and Oneida, Ill.—making three towns named Oneida which claimed him as a citizen. His first wife, Cornelia, was born in Illinois, in 1841, and died in 1895. Four children were born to George A. and Cornelia Wetmore, as follows: Mrs. Mary Firstenberger, Kansas City, Kans.; Herbert, a dentist at Salt Lake City, Utah; Emily, died at the age of two years; Marion, wife of W. C. Gilmore.

Mr. Gilmore is an independent voter who is not allied with any one political party and does not wear the party yoke of any political boss. He filled the post of township clerk for two years and has served for four years past as treasurer of the school board. He takes an active and influential part in farming activities in Nemaha county which have for their ultimate object the betterment of conditions for the farmers and greater yields of crops and bigger profits. He is secretary of the Farmers' Shipping Association of Oneida, Kans., and is president of the Farmers' Institute and is president of the Nemaha County Farm Bureau.

**Ralph Westover** is a widely known, retired farmer now living in Goff, Kans. For many years he has lived in Nemaha county as farmer or business man, and is now enjoying in retirement the fruits of his long years of faithful labor.

He is the son of Sherman and Hettie (Canfield) Westover. Sherman Westover was born in Connecticut in 1812, and came to the Western Reserve, Ohio, with his parents, Luman and Sabrey (Smedley) Westover, when he was three years old. Luman Westover was a soldier of the Revolution, and a son of Luman Westover, who emigrated from Holland to America. Sherman Westover received very little education, and spent most of his time working on the farm. He lived with his parents until he was thirty-three years old when he bought 133 acres in Portage county, Ohio, and began farming for himself. He was a suc-

cessful and prosperous farmer, and he continued to buy land until he owned 293 acres. He lived on his farm until his death in 1899. He was a member and deacon of the Christian church. His wife, Hettie, whom he married in Ohio, was born in Connecticut in 1820, and grew up on the farm. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Westover: Ralph, the subject of this biographical account; Irvin, carpenter and contractor, of Alliance, Ohio, has two children, one son, Charles, is mayor of Alliance; Mrs. Phoebe Mock, wife of a farmer at Berlin Center, Ohio, has two children, one living, Dr. Wallace K. Mock, a noted physician at Cleveland, Ohio; John, deceased, father of three girls; Mrs. Annie Case, widow, mother of two children, Alliance, Ohio.

Ralph Westover was born in Portage county, Ohio, January 14, 1837, grew up on the farm, and received a district schooling. At the age of twenty-three, he rented 133 acres of land from his father. A year later he went to Hiram, Ohio, where he rented a hotel, which he conducted for two years. Then he went to Michigan, where he worked as wood chopper, for almost a year for fifty cents a day and board. He then bought forty acres in Michigan and, after farming it for four years, he sold out and came to Kansas and rented an eighty acre farm near Holton in 1865. Two years later, he hired out as a farm hand and, after working two seasons, he bought eighty acres five miles from Holton, where he lived eight years. During this time he had to drive to Atchison and Leavenworth to do all of his trading. Supplies were so scarce for two years that he lived almost entirely on sorghum molasses and corn bread. Money could not be borrowed for less than fifteen per cent interest. He next went to Netawaka, where he helped build the railroad depot, and two years later, came to Goff where, in 1876, he bought 160 acres of raw land nearby. A year later, he sold this, and bought eighty acres on Spring Creek, and two years afterwards, he took a trip through Texas, Arkansas, and Missouri, looking for land, and finally bought Missouri land to the extent of 160 acres. He soon sold it, and bought forty acres northeast of Goff, where he lived for two years. He traded this tract for town property and a livery stable, later selling the stable and buying a restaurant, which he operated about a year. Selling this, he built a house and, within a month, sold it to buy a forty acre farm east of Goff, where he lived two years, and then traded it for eighty acres east of Goff, where he remained five years. At the end of that time, he sold out and retired, and is now living in Goff, where he owns considerable property. He is a member of the Christian church, and is a loyal member of the Democratic party. He has served as township trustee two terms, when he was living at Netawaka.

He was married in 1858 to Mary Stump, daughter of George and Eliza (Brenneman) Stump. Her father was born in 1810 in Pennsylvania, and died in 1894 in Ohio. He was a member of the Christian Church. The mother was born in Pennsylvania in 1814, and died in 1849 in Milton township, Mahoning county, Ohio. Eleven children were born

to them. Mary, wife of Mr. Westover, was born in December, 1840, in Milton township, Mahoning county, Ohio. She was reared on the farm, and received a district schooling. She taught school one term after coming to Kansas, and had ten negroes and twenty white children in her first school. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Westover, but five of them died of diphtheria, leaving only one child, Mrs. Harriett Taylor, wife of a farmer living a mile west of Goff. She has one child, Mary, the only grandchild of Mr. Westover, and who is married to Leonard Powell, a farmer near Goff. Mr. Westover's first wife died in February, 1909.

In 1910, he was again married to Martha E. Stump, niece of Mary Stump, his first wife. Mrs. Westover was born in Indiana in 1858. In 1910 she came to Kansas from Ohio, and was immediately married to Mr. Westover. She is the daughter of Henry and Barbara (Rummel) Stump. Her father and mother were born in Ohio, and both died in their native State.

Mr. Westover is a farmer who has seen many hard days, but ill luck never kept him down, and he is living in ease and comfort in his old age, a thing which would not have been possible had he not labored so diligently while young and strong. He is much respected and admired by his neighbors, and is well known throughout the township.

**Thomas P. Johnstone**, farmer in Harrison township, is a native of Nemaha county, having been born in Granada township March 23, 1884. He is the son of James and Mary Johnstone, whose lives are recorded elsewhere in this volume and to which sketch we refer the reader. Mr. Johnstone's boyhood did not differ much from that of the other small boys of Nemaha county and his boyish pranks and adventures are remembered by his old friends. He went to the district school with the other small boys of his neighborhood and learned the three R's. At the age of twenty-one he began to work for himself, but remained at home until he was twenty-six, helping his father part of the time and farming for himself the remainder of the time. Later he rented eighty acres from his father and finding this a successful venture, he bought the place later in the year, and he has lived on the farm since that time. It is fenced and improved to a modern degree and at the present time Mr. Johnstone is building a frame house on it which is twenty-four by thirty-two feet in size and is two stories in height. Mr. Johnstone is a progressive farmer who believes that a stitch in time saves nine and will invest money in improvements confident that it will make him greater returns in the end. This policy is apparent to the most casual observer around the farm. Mr. Johnstone is a farmer and stock-raiser of prominence throughout his district. Besides raising numerous horses and mules he pays special attention to his breeds of fine Duroc Jersey red hogs of which he is justly proud, as they are among the finest in the township. Mr. Johnstone also operates two threshing outfits and has built a large shed to house them during the winter season. In addi-



tion to the farm which he owns, he also rents twenty acres from his father and finds this profitable, as it increases his yield without correspondingly increasing his labor.

Mr. Johnstone was married to Lillie M. Swart, February 2, 1910, and three children have been born to them: Glenn Martin, aged four; Elmer John, aged three; Pearl Elizabeth, aged seven months. Mrs. Johnstone is the daughter of John M. and Louise Swart, of whom an extended account is written in another part of this history. Mrs. Lillie Johnstone was born August 6, 1892, in Riley county, Kansas, and was brought up on her father's farm. After receiving a common school education, she lived with her parents until she was married to Mr. Johnstone.

Mr. Johnstone is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and also holds several offices of honor. One of these is as secretary of the Farmers' Union at Maple Shade, known as Local No. 1378, and another is as secretary of the Union business at Goff. He votes the Republican ticket and takes an active interest in the public affairs of his township and county, although he has never sought political preferment.

**Louis Schuneman**, owner of 200 acres of farm lands in Adams township, is a native of Germany, and one of that sturdy class of Americans of German birth who have made good in Kansas. He is a son of Carl and Wilhelmina (Senn) Schuneman, the former of whom was born in the Fatherland in 1824, learned the trade of blacksmith when a boy and became owner of a small farm in Germany. He followed farming and operated a blacksmith shop until his demise in 1883. His wife, Wilhelmina, was born in 1840, married in 1860, and immigrated to America in 1902 in order to keep house for her son, Albert, at Baileyville, Kans. She spends her time among her children, nearly all of whom emigrated from Germany to this country, and have settled here, as follows: Theodore, deceased; Gustave, a farmer in Bourbon county, Kansas; Louis, the subject of this review; Mrs. Augusta Ming, Berlin, Germany; Frederick, a clerk in Germany; Minnie, living with Gustave; Albert, in the United States mail service at Kansas City, Mo.; Henry, deceased; one child died in infancy.

Louis Schuneman was born February 25, 1866, in Germany, and was reared on his father's farm. He served for three years in the German army, and after working at home for two years after his army service, he immigrated to the United States. He located on a farm near Seneca, and worked as a farm laborer for five years, imbued with the firm intention to one day own a farm of his own. He carefully saved his money until he was able to rent and stock up a farm of eighty acres. His venture as a farmer on his own account proving profitable, two years later he invested his hard earned savings in a tract of 120 acres in Adams township, to which he has since added eighty acres adjoining. Mr. Schuneman has 160 acres in cultivation, and is a successful farmer.

Mr. Schuneman was married February 5, 1899, to Vina Hansz, a

daughter of Michael and Marguerite (Stermer) Hansz. Michael Hansz, her father, was born January 24, 1835, in France, and emigrated from his native land to America in 1864. He located in Nemaha county, Kansas, and bought 160 acres of land in the Nemaha valley, which had been granted to Zenas Dunbar, musician and captain of Castle's Company, New York militia of the War of 1812. Dunbar assigned his rights to M. Hansz in consideration of \$1.25 an acre, and the deed of conveyance was signed by Abraham Lincoln, September 16, 1864. Mr. Hansz later sold 120 acres of the original tract for \$125 an acre. He is now living in Seneca. Marguerite Hansz, mother of Mrs. Schuneman, was born near Schweinfurt-on-the-Main, Germany, March 15, 1839, and came to Chicago, Ill., in 1859. Mr. and Mrs. Hansz were married in Illinois in 1859. Mrs. Hansz died in 1910. They were the parents of eight children, as follows: Mrs. Louise Graham, a widow, Seneca, Kans.; George, dead; Mrs. Mary Robbins, Soldier, Kans.; Vina, wife of Louis Schuneman; Mrs. Rosa Hart, Seneca, Kans.; one child died in infancy; Edward, Seneca, Kans.; the first born died in infancy. Mrs. Vina Schuneman was born on a farm near Seneca, April 12, 1872. Nine children have been born to Louis and Vina Schuneman, namely: Helen, aged sixteen years; Clarence, fourteen years old; Paul, thirteen; Alice, eleven years old; Gracie, nine years old; Earle, aged seven; Harry, five years of age; Francis, aged two years; Willis, an infant.

Mr. Schuneman is a Republican in politics but finds very little time outside of his farming interests to take any active part in political affairs.

**William M. Sourk**, for many years a farmer in Harrison township, is one of the largest shippers and farmers in this part of the county and annually sends large shipments of stock and grain to the markets over the special railroad spur which has been built to his farm. He is a prominent citizen in many other respects also, for his interest in religious work and in political matters leads him to take an important part in the activities of his community.

He is a son of William and Amanda J. (Mitchel) Sourk, of whom an account is given in the biographical sketch of George W. Sourk, which appears in another part of this volume.

William M. Sourk, of whom this review is to treat at length, was born in Stark county, Illinois, April 10, 1863. His boyhood and youth was spent on his father's farm and he lived much the same life as did the average farmer's son of that day, working hard when needed, and playing hard when he was not needed around the farm. He went to school as much as the limited opportunities in the rural districts of those days would permit. He did not leave his home place until he was forty-four years old, having spent his younger years in helping his father. As the latter grew more aged and wished to give up the strenuous labors of the field, his son worked all the more steadfastly and took the burden from his father's aging shoulders. For many years, in fact, he managed the farm without profit to himself, accepting only as compensation his

bare living expenses. At the death of his father, William and his sisters, Addie M. and Mattie A., bought the home place of 320 acres and his sisters lived with him and kept house for him until his marriage in 1913. He then traded an eighty of the home place to Mattie and an eighty of his own place, which he had bought previously to the death of his father, and consisting of 160 acres, in 1886, the southeast quarter of section 21, adjoining the Sourk home place, for Addie's interest. This land adjoined the family estate and William Sourk worked it as part of the father's place, turning all profits to the latter. In 1899 he also, by shrewd trading, bought another 160 acres, situated one mile north of the original farm, in northeast quarter of section 17, making a section of contiguous territory which William was required to look after and keep in repair. In 1912 he traded a quarter section of this land on the purchase of his present home place and now has 320 acres in section 21, two sisters owning the remaining quarter, and the Sourk heirs owning 160 acres in northeast part of section 21. Mr. Sourk deals extensively in live stock and keeps as high as five hundred head of cattle, hogs and sheep. At the time the writer called, Mr. Sourk's stock was at the lowest condition it had been for years and he had sixty-eight head of sheep, forty-nine head of cattle, thirty-one hogs, fifteen horses and one mule. The railroad company has built a spur into his farm so that he can ship stock and grain more conveniently. This is known as Sourk's spur and is officially designated as a flag station.

March 23, 1913, he was married to Ernestine (Hall) Cox, a widow of Thomas Cox, and to this union one child has been born, William M., Jr., born May 9, 1915.

Mrs. Sourk's first husband, Thomas Cox, was born near Bancroft, Kans., in 1879, and died in 1903 at Goff, Kans. He was reared on the farm and received a district schooling and followed farming the greater part of his life. To this marriage one child was born, Thomas L., born January 29, 1903, who lives with his mother. Mrs. Sourk is the daughter of Armsted and Emaline L. (Harper) Hall. Her father was a pioneer in Nemaha county, who for more than thirty-five years lived in the Ontario neighborhood. He was born November 22, 1825, in Patrick county, Virginia, and at the age of twenty-five years, came to Missouri but soon crossed the plains for Oregon. Later he went to San Francisco and returned by way of the Isthmus of Panama and sailed to New York. In 1857 he returned to Missouri and when the Civil war broke out shortly afterward he joined General Marmaduke Price's regiment and took part in many of his adventurous expeditions. Before enlisting he was married to Margaret Jane Green, who bore him two children, Emma Esther, now Mrs. Isaac Cobb, and Francis Marion, of Colorado. In 1878 he was married to Emma L. McCormick and to this union were born three children, Minerva Virginia, now Mrs. Armour Lynde; Laura Ernestine, now Mrs. William Sourk, and Armsted Clyde. At the age of thirty Mr. Hall united with the Christian church and was active in its affairs until his death.

Mrs. Ernestine Hall (Cox) Sourk was born near Bancroft, Kans., October 1, 1881, and was reared on the farm. After receiving a common school education, she helped her parents around the house until the date of her marriage in 1901. After the death of her first husband, she did much sewing to add to her income and later went to New Mexico to prove up a claim of one hundred and sixty acres. After living there a year, she sold out and came back to Kansas where she resumed her sewing. In 1913 she was married to Mr. Sourk. She is a member of the Christian church and belongs to the Royal Neighbors and Rebecca lodges.

Mr. Sourk is an active member of the Christian church and for years has been an elder in this denomination. When revival meetings were to be held at Goff in July, 1914, he was selected as superintendent of construction of the big tabernacle which was to be built at Goff, Kans. This structure, which was forty by fifty-six feet in size, was built in one day, a remarkable feat of building and a result of the wonderful co-operative industry of Goff's citizens. Mr. Sourk furnished the greater portion of the material, hauled from his place for the building. Mr. Sourk usually votes the Republican ticket. Since he was twenty-one years he has been a member of the election board almost continuously and in only two election has he failed to serve. One of these was in 1908 when he was busy settling up his father's estate, and in 1902 when he refused to serve in order to do more active work in support of one of his close friends who was a candidate for county commissioner. Mr. Sourk is an active citizen among his neighbors and holds membership in the Masonic lodge and in the Modern Woodmen of America. He was president of the Farmers Union for a number of years prior to January 1, 1915, and is now president of the Cemetery Association and is a member of the school board. This concludes the list of activities of this prominent man. One has only to read them to see what character and industry must lie behind the name of a man who is as respected in his community as is Mr. Sourk.

**John Sherman Sourk.**—One of the widely known farmers of Harrison township is John Sherman Sourk, who owns 280 acres of well improved farming land in this township. He is a son of William and Amanda J. (Mitchel) Sourk, of whom more is told in the biographical review of the life of George Sourk, which appears on other pages of this volume.

John S. Sourk was born in Stark county, Illinois, on December 12, 1866, and grew up on his father's farm, receiving a common schooling, while living on the farm. He taught a total of seventy-nine months, and attended Campbell University at Holton two years. He started out for himself at the age of twenty-three and, after his period of school teaching, he began to farm on the 120 acres he had bought in 1895, while he was still teaching school. In 1902, he bought eighty acres adjoining his original holdings and, in 1910, he bought another eighty acres two

and one-half miles northwest of his home place. He rents his farming land now, and keeps only the pasture land for his own use, and raises a considerable number of cattle, horses and Poland China hogs. At present, he has twenty-six head of Poland China hogs, fifteen head of fine Norman horses, and thirty-two head of white face and Shorthorn cattle which is an average amount of stock. He raises chiefly corn on his land. On April 29, he was married to Hettie Edith Barnes, and to this marriage, four children have been born: One who died in infancy; Orval L., eleven years old, in school; Gerald F., four years old; Ruth E., five months old, living at home. Mrs. Sourk is the daughter of John and Elverna (Moyer) Barnes, whose life histories are set down elsewhere in this book. Mrs. Sourk was born near Goff, Kans., October 26, 1883, and was reared on the farm. She lived at home until her marriage in 1900. She is a member of the Christian church.

Mr. Sourk is a member of the Christian church, in which he is a deacon and trustee. He is auditor of the Farmers' Union, and is very active in its affairs. Mr. Sourk is a Republican voter and takes an interest in all public affairs, both of his locality and those of the Nation. He is one of the foremost men in his neighborhood in trying to improve the welfare of the neighborhood, and much credit should be given him for what he has done.

**John H. Barnes.**—One of the well known farmers of Granada township is John H. Barnes, the son of James and Mary Ann (Page) Barnes, who were pioneer settlers in Ohio. The father, James Barnes, was born in Maryland, in 1812. He came to Leavenworth, Kans., in 1857. Six months later, he moved to Granada township, Nemaha county, where Mr. Barnes pre-empted a piece of land and farmed it for sixteen years. Meanwhile, he was traveling and teaching. When he grew too old to actively engage in his work, he divided the eighty acres among his children, and lived in retirement until his death in 1877. He was a member of the Baptist church, and for some time, he acted as pastor, and throughout his life, he was an able and constant worker in his church. In politics, Mr. Barnes was a Republican.

His wife, Mary Ann Barnes, was born in New York City in 1813. She was married to Mr. Barnes in 1838, and twelve children were born to them: One child, who died in infancy; Mrs. Sarah Chasem, deceased; Wesley, deceased; Mrs. Ruth Hicks, deceased; James, deceased; Mrs. Catherine Thompson, deceased; Jacob, deceased; Henry, deceased; Samuel, farmer, Granada township; Mrs. Emily Clifton, retired widow, Goff; John H.; Luke, deceased.

John H. Barnes was born in Ohio, March 8, 1854. At the age of fourteen, he started out for himself, and his first job was as hired man at wages of ten dollars a month. He worked as a farm hand for about nine years, when he bought forty acres in Harrison township, which he farmed four years, and then left to buy eighty acres in Granada township. He moved on this property, and is renting the other farm.

He was married in 1879 to Elverna Moyer, and eight children were born to them, four dying at a tender age. Those now living are: Mrs. Daisy Hawley, Granada township; Mrs. John S. Sourk, Harrison township; Mrs. Ethel Bondrager, Granada township; Mrs. Estelle Pittman, wife of a Granada township farmer. Mrs. Barnes was the daughter of Augustus and Ellen Moyer. Her father was born in Pennsylvania in 1830. He followed farming all of his life, and came to Kansas in the sixties, and lived most of the time in Granada township.

Elverna Barnes was born in Pennsylvania in 1863, and died in June, 1905. Mr. Barnes was married a second time in 1907 to Lydia Porter.

Mr. Barnes is a well liked man, and belongs to a great many organizations, among which are: Masonic, in which he was escort; Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was escort and treasurer; Knights of Pythias; Farmers' Alliance, was treasurer; Grangers; Modern Wooden of America, was treasurer six years. He is widely known in this district, and is highly respected by all who know him.

**Chester G. Sourk**, a prosperous farmer of Harrison township, is a son of Chester M. and Harriett A. (Cox) Sourk. Chester M. Sourk was born in Illinois, May 17, 1861, and was raised on the farm. At the age of twenty-two years he started out for himself and though he was in poor health, he worked hard, most of the time on a hay bailer, which he ran eight years. Then he bought 120 acres near Goff, which he farmed until his death, December 26, 1912. He was a member of the Christian church, and of the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows lodges. For several years he was venerable counsel for the Woodmen. On April 3, 1880, he was married to Harriett A. Cox and two children were born to them: Chester G., of whom this biographical account is to deal, and Mrs. Ada E. Porter, wife of a Brown county, Kansas, farmer, and mother of one child. Mrs. Sourk was born in London, England, April 3, 1863, and came to the United States with her parents when she was a very small child. She lived with her parents until her marriage and did a large part of the housework for them. She is a member of the Baptist church. She died in 1901.

Chester G. Sourk was born in Harrison township, Nemaha county, August 23, 1892, and was reared on his father's farm. After receiving a common school education, he went to Kansas City, Mo., where he studied shorthand and typewriting. At the age of twenty, he rented his father's place of 120 acres. He keeps high grade Jersey red hogs, having about twenty-eight head at present. Besides this he owns eight head of cattle and twelve horses. He grows mostly corn and wheat on his place.

September 6, 1911, he was married to Grace B. Porter, daughter of William and Nancy (Cullum) Porter. Two children have been born to them: Clyde, three years; Jessie, one and a half years old. Mrs.

Sourk's father was born in Missouri in 1832 and died in Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1908. He started out for himself when he was quite young and in 1870 came to Kansas, locating in Nemaha county, seven miles northeast of Goff, where he bought 400 acres on which he lived until his death, though he had sold 140 acres before he died in 1908. He was a member of the Christian church and for several years was a township officer and was a member of the school board.

In 1874 he was married to Nancy Cullum, who was born in Nashville, Tenn., in 1849. She lived on the farm with her parents until her marriage. She belonged to the Christian Church and is now living at Wetmore, Kans. Eleven children were born to them: James, farmer near Wetmore; five children; Mrs. Bertha Pendergrass, farmer, Rosalia, Kans; Mrs. Manda Lynn, farmer, Brown county, Kansas; Mrs. Jennie Johnson, wife of hardware merchant, Caldwell, Kans.; Mrs. Ella McKee, wife of Nemaha county farmer; Mrs. Jessie Bright, wife of Nemaha county farmer; Mrs. Ethel Lee, wife of farmer near Wetmore, Kans; William, farmer near Wetmore; Mrs. Edna Bontrager, Axtell, Kans., wife of farmer; Grace, wife of subject of this review; Leslie, living at Wetmore with his mother.

Mrs. Chester Sourk was born March 5, 1892, in Wetmore, Kans., and was reared on the farm. She lived with her mother until her marriage. She attends the Christian Church regularly.

Mr. Sourk attends the Christian Church and is a Republican in politics. He is a member of the Farmers' Union and is a director in that organization. He is one of the younger men of the county and is a progressive and wideawake farmer, who without doubt will make a name for himself.

**Bayard Taylor**, of Harrison township, Nemaha county, Kansas, was a son of Joseph Willard Taylor, who was born on a farm in Hendricks county, Indiana, in 1830. When he was very young, his father died, leaving a widowed mother, whom it was the duty of Joseph Willard Taylor to support. This he did in a most manful way, and until he was twenty years old, he and his sister, Sarah, lived with his mother, and cared for her welfare. Then, taking a wife, because he cherished his strong love for his mother, and brought her into his new home to live with him and his wife. She lived alternately with her son and her daughter, Mrs. Sarah Yates, until her death. Joseph Taylor was of an enterprising nature, and soon after his marriage, he started a general merchandise store in Cartersburg, Indiana, which he conducted for some time. For a term of four years, he was assessor of Hendricks county, Indiana. He migrated to Kansas in August, 1862. When the Civil war broke out, Mr. Taylor was a young man of thirty. Because of his ability in leading men, he was made captain of a Kansas militia company, which fought against General Price's army when the rebel general made his raid toward Kansas and was stopped at Westport, Mo. He also served as paymaster for the Federal Government during a later period of the war,



and passed through many exciting situations during the bloody struggle. Once when he was engaged in a particularly dangerous piece of work, he disguised himself in the hope of avoiding capture. In 1862, he came to Kansas and bought 200 acres of land five miles north of Holton, in Jackson county, which he farmed for three years. Then he moved to Holton, where he went into the general merchandise business in partnership with "Uncle Tom" Adamson, who was well known in Holton. He conducted this business for three years, during which period he rented his farm, but finding farm life more attractive, he sold his business interest in the merchandise store, and returned to his farm near Holton. Once when Jackson county needed a good assessor, Joseph Taylor was appointed and executed the duties of this office with skill and satisfaction to all concerned during his two-year term. While filling this office, he was elected justice of the peace of his precinct. Office holding had few attractions for him, and he returned to his farm. He later had the honor of naming his home township—Liberty township. In 1882, after he had consummated many business deals, in which he traded his farm for another one and that for a third one, he went into the general merchandise business again on a special trade. Mr. Taylor had for several years been dealing in trades and leaving his son, Bayard Taylor, to manage the farm. He has also done considerable cattle buying, and by driving them to Leavenworth, was able to ship them at a great profit. In the fall of 1882, he made one of his characteristically shrewd trades, this time with Edmund Abbott of Goff, Kans., in which he traded eighty acres of land and 700 head of sheep for Mr. Abbott's general merchandise store, at Goff, Kansas. In thirty days, however, Mr. Taylor made a deal with the hotel keeper in Goff, by which he traded his general merchandise store for the hostelry. He kept this for several months, when he traded it for a hardware store, which he operated successfully for a year. Selling out at a favorable price, he moved to Corning, where he bought a general merchandise store, which he operated for a year, when he came back to Goff to buy a hardware store again. After conducting it for four years with remarkable success, he traded it to James Conville for a farm of 160 acres. Then he bought a livery stable from his son, and ran it a year, after which he went into partnership with George Bickle in the general merchandise business. After a year, he sold his interest to his partner, and went to Bancroft, where he took charge of a lumber yard and hardware store, which he conducted for twelve years. Selling out this establishment, he returned to Goff, where he lived in retirement until his death on April 4, 1911. He was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and for many years of his life, he belonged to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows lodge. In 1851, he was married to Elizabeth Pope, and to this union, six children were born, as follows: Mrs. May Rafter, widow and mother of four children, living in Holton; Mrs. Rose Dunn, wife of cashier of Holton State Bank, and mother of two children; Bayard, subject of this review;



Mrs. Eva Plaxton, of Florida, where her husband is a gardener, and who is the mother of seven children; Mack, cattleman in Greeley county, Kansas, and father of one boy, and Ula, who died in infancy. Mrs. Taylor was born in Hendricks county, Indiana, in 1830, and was reared in a hotel where her parents lived. After having completed her common school education, she lived with her parents until her marriage. She died February 17, 1914. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and of the Rebekah lodge.

Bayard Taylor was born on August 19, 1857, on the farm in Hendricks county, Indiana. His formal schooling was slight, because school in the rural districts of Hendricks county were not flourishing. Bayard Taylor lived with his parents until he was twenty-six years old, when he was married and bought 160 acres near Goff, and started farming for himself. With the exception of about eighteen months during which he rented his farm and lived in Goff, Bayard Taylor has lived on his farm continuously. By his wise management he has increased his holdings considerably, to include 320 acres in Logan county and 160 acres, adjoining his present farm of equal size. Altogether he holds 640 acres in Logan and Nemaha counties.

He was married July 26, 1883, to Harriett Westover, and to this happy union one daughter has been born, Mrs. Mary Alice Powell, wife of a farmer, Leonard Powell, living near Goff. She was graduated from the Goff High School in the class of 1908. Mrs. Taylor is a daughter of Ralph and Mary (Stump) Westover. A complete account of Mr. Westover's life appears elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Harriett (Westover) Taylor, wife of Bayard Taylor, was born October 11, 1863, in Behring county, Michigan, and was reared on her father's farm.

Mr. Taylor is a Democrat, and for eighteen years, has been treasurer of the school board, a record which, to the fullest degree, attests his ability and integrity in administering the funds of the educational work of his district. Mr. Taylor's reputation is above reproach, and he is held in high esteem by his fellow citizens.

**Nick Henry**, trustee of Harrison township and a well known farmer, was born in Germany, March 4, 1858. His parents were George and Iva (Dougle) Henry, whose life histories are narrated in the sketch of Thomas Henry which appears elsewhere in this volume. Nick Henry received a common school education and at the early age of fourteen he bravely set out to earn his way in the world, first finding work on a neighboring farm for three years. He learned the milling business and was thus employed until 1877, when he left his native land and sailed for America, the land of opportunity.

Locating near Seneca, Kans., Mr. Henry worked on a farm for two years and later he worked on a farm west of Wetmore. He rented 160 acres which he farmed for two years profitably. For another year he rented eighty acres on Wolfley Creek and at the end of that time had laid away enough money to buy 160 acres northeast of Bancroft.

After farming this for one summer, he received a good offer for it and sold out, going from there to Kingman county, Kansas, where he homesteaded 160 acres, remaining there six years altogether. He made money out of this venture, although he was handicapped by an unfortunate accident which occurred as he was moving to his Kingman county place. He attempted to drive his twenty-seven head of cattle overland to his new place, but the heat was so great that most of the cattle died on the road, leaving him only eight with which to stock his farm. The following year he returned to his former farm to get thirteen head of horses which he had left there the year before, but after driving them over to his new place, all of them took the glanders and died. He was not discouraged by these calamities and instead of giving up in despair, he borrowed money on his farm and bought a span of mules and he and his loyal wife were able to make both ends meet by hard work. During the winter when there was nothing he could do, his wife worked out to earn enough. In 1890, Mr. Henry came back to Nemaha county and located east of Goff, where he bought eighty acres which he farmed until 1910, when he gave up active farming on a large scale. Since that time he has lived in Goffs, where he owns a twenty-acre tract.

He was married November 15, 1880, to Louise Pfrank. Seven children have been born to them as follows: Mrs. Mary Evans, of Florida, a widow with one child; Edward, farmer in Oklahoma, one child; William, farmer east of Goff; Harry, farmer in Granada township; Mrs. Kate Berridge, wife of a Topeka real estate dealer, and mother of one child; Herman, living at home; Jessie, student at Washburn College, Topeka.

Mrs. Henry was born in Michigan and is a daughter of German immigrants. The mother died when Mrs. Henry was a small child. Nicholas Pfrank, her father, came to America in 1848 and located in New York. From there he went to Michigan and bought a farm which he operated for several years. He later sold out and migrated to Kansas, where he bought 160 acres of fine land near Netawaka, which he farmed for six years. Bad seasons and unavoidable backsets ruined his crops several years in succession and he was forced to give up his place. He immediately set out to start life over again and rented eighty acres which he farmed for five years. In this venture he was successful and made enough money to buy 160 acres near Goff, which he farmed until his death. His death occurred in 1896. Mr. Pfrank was a member of the Catholic church. He was the father of two children, as follows: Louisa, wife of Nick Henry, and another child who died in infancy. Mrs. Henry was born September 13, 1862. She is a member of the Roman Catholic Church and of the Altar Society. She also belongs to the Royal Neighbors and the Rebekah fraternal organizations. Mr. Henry belongs to the Masonic order and to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. Henry was elected trustee of Harrison township on the Republican ticket in 1912 and was re-elected to the office in 1914.

**John A. Ketter**, who is known by all farmers in his neighborhood, is the son of Philip, Sr., and Elizabeth (Wink) Ketter, of whom a complete record is set down in the sketch of J. B. Ketter, which appears in another part of this volume.

The subject of this review was born at St. Benedict's, July 2, 1882, and has lived on the farm all of his life. After receiving a common schooling, he lived with his parents until he was twenty-four years of age, when he rented eighty acres in Illinois township which he farmed one season. After this he rented sixty acres in the same township near the town of Kelly, and farmed it one year. In the fall, he rented 160 acres of his father's place, and is still farming this land. In addition to his crops, Mr. Ketter raises fine Hampshire hogs and has a few thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle.

He was married October 17, 1906, to Clara A. Eisenbarth, daughter of Michael and Ernestine (Furst) Eisenbarth, and three children were born to this marriage: Frances Ernestine, age eight; Celestine J., age four; Mildred C. E., aged one. A complete review of Mrs. Ketter's parents will be found in the article which treats of the life of Michael Eisenbarth, which appears elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Ketter was born in Corning, Kans., March 5, 1883, and was reared on the farm. After receiving a common school education, she remained with her parents until her marriage, October 17, 1906. She is a member of the Catholic church and of the Altar Society.

Mr. Ketter is also a Roman Catholic and belongs to the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association, and to the Farmers' Union. In politics, he votes the Democratic ticket.

**Israel Livingood**, of Harrison township, was born in Iowa, September 18, 1857, and is a son of Josiah and Susanna (Eby) Livingood, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania in 1832, and was reared in Germantown, Ohio, where his parents removed when he was but a child. Josiah Livingood learned the trade of harness maker and saddler and followed this trade from the time he was twenty years old until his removal to Iowa in 1855. He farmed in Iowa until 1878 and then migrated to Lincoln county, Kansas. Here he bought a farm, but three years later he sold it and came to Nemaha county and bought 120 acres (the old Irving place near Seneca). He located in Seneca and worked at the carpenter's trade a part of his time. In 1885 he sold his town and country property and moved to Smith county, Kansas, where he purchased a quarter section of land and lived there until his death. He was a member of the United Brethren Church. Josiah Livingood was married in Ohio to Susanna Eby, who was born in Pennsylvania and reared in Ohio. While employed at the Hotel Florentine at Germantown she met and was wooed by Josiah Livingood. They were the parents of six children, as follows: Mrs. Mary Richards, Seneca, Kans.; Israel, subject of this review; Noah, a farmer in Norton county, Kansas; Perry, a farmer in Smith county; Mrs. Ella Will, deceased.

When Israel Livingood was twenty-one years old he bought eighty acres in Lincoln county, Kans., and farmed it for three years, and then came to Nemaha county, Kansas, where he rented his father's farm near Seneca for ten years. He then bought his present home farm in Harrison township. Mr. Livingood was married in 1881 to Mollie Boyer, born in West Virginia in 1858, and a daughter of William and Lucinda Boyer, natives of West Virginia. Her parents were early settlers in Lincoln county, Kansas, where she taught school for two years. She was also engaged in dressmaking at Salina, Kans., for a short time previous to her marriage. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Israel Livingood, namely: Mrs. Jessie Rose, Denver, Colo., whose husband is route agent for the Adams Express Company; Harry and Aldo, twins; Mont, at home. Harry and Aldo Livingood were born on October 6, 1889, on the farm near Seneca, Kans. From the age of six to thirteen years the twins studied in the district school and then entered the Corning High School, from which they graduated in 1907. They entered Baker University at Baldwin, Kans., in 1909 and graduated therefrom in 1913. Harry became principal of the Waterville, Kans., High School, and Aldo studied for one year at Kansas University. Harry is now superintendent of the Rossville, Kans., schools, and Aldo is superintendent of the Barnes, Kans., schools.

Mr. Livingood and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and the Republican party usually has his allegiance.

**Charles Krogmann.**—Two things stand out in the life career of Charles Krogmann, of Marion township, and entitle him to specific and honorable mention in the annals of his county, of which he is one of the real pioneers. Mr. Krogmann has reared a large family of twelve children and risen from moderate circumstances to become one of the largest land owners of the county. When he first came to Kansas thirty-eight years ago he had little of this world's goods, but he had learned how to work with both hands and brain. During his residence in Nemaha county he has made good and become one of the leading citizens of this prosperous county.

Charles Krogmann was born in Oldenburg, Germany, April 4, 1849, and is a son of Charles H. and Katharine (Rethmann) Krogmann, who reared a family of nine children, eight of whom are living. Charles H. Krogmann, the father, was born in 1818, in Oldenburg, Germany, and became a sailor as well as having been a farmer. He died in his native land in 1885. Katharine, his wife, and mother of the subject of this review, was born in 1825, and died in 1915.

He of whom this review is written left his native land in 1868 and came to America in search of fortune. He first located in Dubuque, Iowa, and worked as a farm hand in Dubuque county for a number of years. After his marriage in 1876, he rented land in Delaware county, Iowa, until 1878 and then came to Nemaha county, Kansas. He invested his saving in eighty acres of land in Center township, which he



CHARLES KROGMANN.



MRS. CHARLES KROGMANN.



sold a few years later and bought his present home farm of 160 acres in section 36, Marion township. Fortune has smiled upon Mr. Krogmann's efforts and the years of hard labor and good financial management have seen his acreage increase to the large total of 763 acres, all of which is located in Nemaha county. He is a breeder of Poland China hogs and feeds a large amount of live stock on his farm annually.

Mr. Krogmann was married May 30, 1876, to Josephine Kramer, and the following children have blessed this happy union, namely: Mrs. Elizabeth Von Der Kampe, living in Mitchell township; Mrs. Christena Pavelick, also living on a farm in Mitchell township; Lena, in Mt. St. Scholastica Convent, Atchison, Kans., known as Sister Anatolia; Frederick, deceased; John, a farmer in Marion township; Mrs. Anna, wife of A. F. Reinecke, Center township; Mrs. Mary Nolte, of Center township; Antone, Louis and Joseph, at home; Charles, deceased; Frank, at home, and Frances, deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Krogmann have thirty grandchildren. The mother of this large and interesting family was born March 1, 1856, in Ohio, and is a daughter of Frederick and Elizabeth (Vaske) Kramer, natives of Germany and America, respectively. They migrated from their native home and died in Iowa, where they owned a fine farm.

Mr. Krogmann is a Democrat and is the present trustee of Marion township, having been elected in 1915. He and the members of his family are affiliated with the Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic Church at Seneca. Mr. Krogmann is a sturdy American citizen of German birth, who is proud of the record he has made in the land of his adoption, and the people of his home county are likewise proud of him and his. He has made a record in Kansas that has been surpassed by but few men in the same length of time.

**John W. Baker.**—To the mind of the reviewer and historian there is no life as interesting and so full of a wealth of material as that of the Union veteran, especially if he be an individual who has worked his way upward from an humble beginning to become fairly well-to-do in this world's goods. John W. Baker, veteran and retired farmer of Harrison township has done this. In addition he has reared and bequeathed a family to this country of which any man may well be proud. For long and arduous years, John W. Baker marched under the starry flag and fought on Southern battlefields in order that the Union might be saved from dissolution and an inestimable benefit be forever incurred in behalf of struggling mankind in all the world. After the great war was over he again took up another fight; this time the gaining of a livelihood as a tiller of the soil; he fought this fight to a finish and won, although at times, when he and his good wife were striving to wrest a modest fortune from the Kansas soil the struggle seemed hopeless. The good old American blood in his veins stood him in fine stead, however, and he won in good time to enjoy these later years in comfort and peace, surrounded by the evidences of plenty, which his thrift has made possible in past years.

John Baker, his father, was born in Virginia in 1812; was reared on a Virginia farm and when he became of age he started in the butchering business which he followed until he bought a farm near Columbus, Ohio, where he resided and reared his family until his death in 1895. Virginia (Long) Baker, his wife, was born in 1813 and their marriage took place in 1832. Seven children were born to them, as follows: Marguerite J., Henry, Mrs. Mary A. (Perry) Tucker and James, deceased; John W., subject of this review; Louis Cass, killed at Chickamauga, and Martha, deceased. The mother of these children departed this life in 1870 at her home in Ohio. Both John Baker and wife were devout Methodists.

John W. Baker, with whom this review is directly concerned, was born on a farm in Franklin county, near Columbus, Ohio, November 17, 1843, and was reared on the farm, had little schooling and remained at home until his enlistment in the Union army in 1862. He enrolled for service in the One Hundred and Thirteenth Ohio infantry, Company C, and served for two years and eleven months. He fought in the great battles of Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Buzzard's Roost, and many minor engagements in which his regiment participated, without receiving a single wound. He served faithfully and bravely until his honorable discharge from the service in July, 1865. In 1866 he rented his father's farm in Ohio and farmed it for fifteen years. He then invested his savings in twenty-seven acres adjoining his father's land, which he cultivated for some years and sold out in order to come to the great West and make a new start. He migrated to Kansas in 1886 and rented land near Wetmore, Kans., which he farmed for two years. Another season he rented an adjoining farm and then moved to a quarter section near Goff, for which he paid cash rent for one year and at the end of his rental period purchased the farm. This tract has been his home ever since and he has made many improvements on the place, chief among them being a large and commodious ten-room farm residence and a large frame barn. He has prospered in the years since making his purchase and is well content with what Kansas has given him and his.

While home on a furlough from his army service in the latter part of 1862, Mr. Baker espoused in marriage the sweetheart of his youthful days, and she has been his faithful helpmeet these many years, until her demise in 1911. Mr. Baker wore his soldier's uniform at the wedding and for nearly fifty years this marriage existed with much happiness and contentment to both husband and wife. Mrs. Mary Baker was born in Franklin county, Ohio, March 11, 1839, and when still a young girl started working as a domestic to gain an independent livelihood for herself. She worked as domestic until twenty years old and then married Joseph Long, who died two years after the marriage. She then went to her father's home and the second marriage resulted. Nine children were born to John W. and Mary Baker, as follows: Oscar, at



home and assisting in managing the farm; Mrs. Abbie McDonald, living on a farm in Jackson county, Kansas, mother of seven children; Arnold, at home; Oland, a farmer of Wetmore township, has three children; Mrs. Linda Burgett, Goff, Kans., mother of four children; Mrs. Laura Burgett, living on a farm near Bancroft, Kans., has six sons; two children died in infancy. Mrs. Mary Baker was a daughter of William (born in 1815, died in 1880) and Elmira Harter (born in 1820 in New Hampshire). William Harter was a shoemaker and farmer and was a member of the Dunkard sect which located in the vicinity of Columbus, Ohio. They were the parents of six children, as follows: Hiram, deceased; Mrs. Mary (Harter) (Long) Baker, deceased; George; Mrs. Charity Baker, deceased; David, farmer in Rice county, Kansas; Mrs. Elizabeth Fields, died in Texas, leaving three daughters.

It is a notable fact in the personal history of Mr. Baker that he cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln, while wearing a soldier's uniform. However, he has since embraced the doctrines of the Democratic party and votes the Democratic ticket at election time. He is a member of the United Brethren church and has always striven to live a good, cleanly and industrious life which makes him highly esteemed among his many acquaintances and well wishers who are legion.

**Ira Bailey**, of Harrison township, is a son of Jehu Bailey, a native Pennsylvanian. Born in 1824, Jehu was apprenticed to the cooper trade while still young. Then he followed the plastering occupation for a time before he turned to farming, which he made the chief business of his life. He moved westward when the great tracts of fine farming land were opened up in Ohio and other States. He farmed in Ohio for a number of years, and then migrated to Illinois, where he purchased 300 acres of good land. As he grew older, he sold part of this land and gave the remainder to his children, reserving for himself only his town property. He worked at the plastering trade a short time, and then retired to spend his days in quiet. He passed away after a long and useful life, August 11, 1914. For many years he was an elder in the Church of God.

Jehu Bailey was married to Frances Swiler in 1844. She was born in Pennsylvania, in 1827. To this union were born seven children, as follows: First born child died in infancy; Ira, of whom this review treats; Mrs. Agnes Postlewait, wife of a retired Illinois farmer; Jacob, a retired farmer in Illinois; Lincoln, farming in Illinois; Harry, working the old home place in Illinois; Charlie, deceased.

As soon as Ira Bailey was of age, he cast his eyes toward Kansas, and shortly set out for the land of the west. Having only limited capital, he rented fifty acres of fine land near Centralia, Kans., and farmed this successfully for two years. Finding a better opportunity in Marshall county, he went there and homesteaded eighty acres, building up a farm which he kept and operated successfully for seven years. Selling this, he bought 160 acres in Nemaha county near Baileyville, which he operated for four years. Then he had a chance to buy 105 acres of fine land

near Goff and, for nine years, farmed this place which was a short distance northeast of town, meanwhile renting his place near Baileyville. After four months in California, he returned to Kansas, and bought a house and four lots in Wetmore, Kans., where he lived five years. He then went back to his farm near Goff for four years more. Seeing an opportunity to acquire a good quarter section west of Goff, he purchased it and made it his permanent home. He has equipped his place for the care of fine stock and poultry and is breeding some unusually good grades of Aberdeen cattle, Poland China hogs, and is raising annually a large number of Plymouth Rock chickens of a pure strain.

He was married, in 1870, to Martha A. Brownlee, and five children have been born to this union: Mrs. Irene Penhorwood, mother of four children, wife of a farmer living near Soldier, Kans.; John, farmer near Goff, father of two children; third child died in infancy; Mrs. Ethel Armstrong, wife of farmer and stockman near Centralia, and mother of one child; Edward, living on the home place, father of one child.

Mrs. Bailey is a daughter of Morgan and Judith (Butterfield) Brownlee. Her father was born in Richland county, Ohio, March 6, 1825. At the age of eighteen, he started out to farm for himself, and at various times, worked land in Ohio and in Illinois. After locating in the latter State, he rented land until 1856, when he bought 160 acres in Illinois, which he operated for a number of years with profit. He eventually sold out and went to Minnesota, but after a short time in that country, he found it less to his liking than Illinois, and returned to the latter State, buying eighty acres near his former farm. Six years later, he traded this for forty acres of the 160, which he formerly owned, and for three years, he farmed this place. He then migrated to Kansas and located near Vermillion, where he took a homestead of eighty acres, on which he lived eight years, during which time he converted the tract into a productive and highly improved farm. Selling out, Mr. Brownlee bought 160 acres on Wolfley Creek, where he remained ten years. He sold out again and bought forty acres just across the road from his former place, which he farmed six years, and then gave to his youngest son and moved to Holton, where he lived in retirement until his death, September 2, 1906. He was a most devout member of the Church of God, and acted as elder for many years, and was also superintendent of the Sunday school. He was married in 1847 to Judith Butterfield, who was born in Herkimer county, New York, September 10, 1828. To Mr. and Mrs. Brownlee were born these children. Martha, wife of Ira Bailey; Franklin, hunter in Idaho; Mrs. Flora Walker, Lawrence, Kans., wife of a traveling salesman; William, grocer in Topeka; Mrs. Fannie Killinger, wife of a farmer near Holton; one child, who died in infancy.

Martha Bailey, wife of Ira Bailey, was born in Illinois, November 26, 1851, and was raised on her father's farm. She attended the district school, and at the age of sixteen years, started to work for two dollars per week. Mr. and Mrs. Bailey spent a month last summer visiting the Panama-Pacific Exposition and other places along the Pacific coast.

Mr. Bailey is a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and takes an interest in the affairs of his denomination. He usually votes the Republican ticket.

**Otho L. Johnstone**, farmer and stockman of Harrison township, is a son of James and Mary Johnstone, whose lives are recorded in another part of this biographical volume. He was born on the farm on which he is now living on July 27, 1892, and save for one year when he was farming his grandfather's place, he has never been off his birthplace. Mr. Johnstone is one of the youngest, but most successful of Harrison township's farmers and he is following the most progressive methods in his work. He raises high grade Duroc Jersey hogs numbering about fifty annually and keeps twenty head of cattle on hand. Besides these he has on hand seven head of fine horses and four colts, all of which are strong, healthy animals.

He was married April 17, 1912, to Marie Hanks, and to this union two children were born, Lois, aged three years, and Herbert, aged seven months. Mrs. Johnstone is a daughter of James and Iva (Shafer) Hanks. Her father was born near Seneca June 10, 1875, and was reared on the Nemaha county place which his father owned. After receiving a common school education he started out, at the age of nineteen, to earn his own way working by the day as a common laborer. In less than a year, however, he moved to his father's farm and operated it three years and then bought ninety-three acres near Kelly, where he lived eight years. Then he sold out and lived in Kelly one year while working at carpentering. At the end of that time he bought 160 acres in Granada township where he still resides. Mr. Hanks is a noted stock raiser and makes a specialty of high grade Duroc Jersey hogs of which he raises about one hundred head per year. In addition to this he is a breeder of cattle. He is a member of the Methodist Church and of Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America lodges. He is treasurer and county director of the Farmers Union and votes the Democratic ticket. He was married in 1894 to Iva Shafer, who was born in Nemaha county, Kansas, January 14, 1875. She is a member of the Methodist church, the Royal Neighbors and the Farmers Union. Two children were born to this marriage: Marie, wife of Otho Johnstone; Everett, died April 16, 1916.

Mrs. Johnstone was born near Seneca, Kans., August 11, 1895, and received a common school education. She is a regular attendant at the services of the Methodist church. Mr. Johnstone is president of the Farmers' Union and is a Republican in politics.

**John M. Eisenbarth**, one of the well known farmers of Harrison township, is the son of Michael and Ernestine Eisenbarth, whose lives are recorded elsewhere in this volume. He was born in Corning, Kans., February 28, 1887, and grew up on the farm, receiving, at the same time, an elementary schooling. Starting out for himself at the age of twenty-one years, he rented eighty acres near Kelly, Kans., and farmed this for

a year, then rented a farm of equal size in Harrison township. A year later he rented 160 acres from his mother-in-law, Mrs. Ketter, and has farmed this since that time. On his place, he keeps the finest strains of thoroughbred Poland China hogs and Shorthorn cattle. Corn is his largest crop, and he uses most of this in feeding.

He was married February 26, 1908, to Mary S. Ketter, daughter of Philip and Elizabeth Ketter, whose biographies are set forth in the review of the life of J. B. Ketter, which appears elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Eisenbarth was born at St. Benedict's, Kans., August 19, 1884, and was reared on the farm. She received a common school education, and lived with her parents most of the time before her marriage.

Mr. Eisenbarth is a member of the Catholic church, and of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association. His wife professes the same faith, and belongs to the Altar Society. Four children were born to them: Vincent John, aged six; Albert Philip, aged four; Edmund Joseph, aged two; Raymond Anthony, aged one.

**Samuel A. Chadwick.**—One of the respected farmers of Harrison township is Samuel A. Chadwick, who lives near Goff. He is the son of Samuel and Susan (Kern) Chadwick, who were the parents of eight children: William, harness maker and shoe repairer, Bancroft, Kans., and father of four children; Samuel A., of whom this sketch is to deal at length; Mrs. Fannie Call, deceased, who was mother of one child; Mrs. Julia Sams, widow, of Goff, Kans., dressmaker, and mother of two children; Charles H., produce dealer, Coldwater, Kans., father of two children; Amanda, deceased, and one child died in infancy.

The mother of Samuel Chadwick, Jr., was the daughter of Jacob and Susan Kern, both of whom were born and reared in Pennsylvania and lived on farms all their lives, the former died in Clinton, Pa., at the age of eighty-eight years. Samuel, Sr., was born in Connecticut in 1815; learned the carpenters' trade and followed it alternately with that of farming until 1870, when he came to Kansas and located in Netawaka, Jackson county, Kansas. He worked out as a farm hand for a year and then homesteaded eighty acres in Harrison township, on which place he lived until his death in 1903. He was a member of the Farmers' Alliance. His wife was born in Clinton county, Pennsylvania, March 6, 1826, and lived with her parents until her marriage in 1849. Mrs. Chadwick is a member of the Christian Church and lives with her son and does much of the housework around the place.

Samuel A. Chadwick, the subject of this review, was born in Clinton county, Pennsylvania, September 4, 1861, and grew up on the farm. At the early age of thirteen, he began working out at five dollars a month. After twelve years as a farm hand, he bought eighty acres in Harrison township and farmed it fifteen years, when he sold out and moved to the old home place. He raises Red Poll cattle and Duroc Jersey hogs with great success and has some fine stock on his place.

He was married in 1888 to Maggie Sparrow and four children have

been born to them: Mrs. Grace Eberwein, living with her parents, and mother of one child; Mrs. Susie Clarkson, wife of a Wetmore farmer, and mother of one child; Earl and Mary, deceased. Mrs. Chadwick is the daughter of Mason and Mary Sparrows. Her father was born on a Kentucky farm, where he lived until coming to Kansas, where he followed railroad contracting for some time, dying in Wetmore in 1887. Mrs. Chadwick was born in Iowa in 1862. She is a member of the Methodist church.

Mr. Chadwick is a member of the Masonic order and of the Farmers' Union. He takes an active part in public affairs and usually votes the Democratic ticket. He is a member of the school board and is intensely interested in the welfare of the schools of his district.

**Charles Jorden.**—Few men have parents whose lives were as interesting as that of John Jorden, the father of Charles Jorden. He was born in Macklinburg, Germany, July 25, 1826, and began to shift for himself at the early age of ten years. His first job was herding geese. Later he worked as coachman for one of the largest landowners in the German Empire, for ten years. He came to America in 1862 and located near Batavia, Ill., renting a farm there for a period of two years. He came to Kansas in 1864, and located in Seneca, where he worked for Charles Scrafford about two years. He then rented 100 acres from Mr. Scrafford, and farmed it for two years, and rented an eighty-acre farm, west of Sabetha, for one year. He homesteaded eighty acres in Berwick township and cultivated it for twelve years. He sold out and rented eighty acres near Kelly, and lived on it eleven years, prior to moving to a forty acre farm nearby, on which he remained six years. After that he lived with his children near Seneca until his death, January 27, 1912. He quarried stone for the first stone building erected in Seneca. Prices in those early days were interesting. Mr. Jorden had to pay as high as \$9 per hundred pounds for shorts which his wife used in baking bread. He often paid \$1 a bushel for corn, and then paid fifty cents for having it ground at the mill near Seneca. When he came to Seneca, he arrived by way of St. Joseph where he had come by rail and prepared to make the trip from St. Joseph to Seneca overland. He paid a man \$35 to drive him and a load of furniture to Seneca.

His wife, Louisa (Lish) Jorden, was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, March 20, 1824. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Jorden, namely: Mrs. Sophia Proude, deceased, whose husband was the first blacksmith in Seneca; John, deceased; Christ, farmer, Morris county, Kansas; Mrs. Minnie Soltz, lives near Kelly; Mrs. Mary Badesheim, deceased; Mrs. Dora Reed, Morris, Kans.; Mrs. Christina Coe, wife of a Morris farmer; Charles, subject of this review. Mr. and Mrs. Jorden were members of the Lutheran Church.

Charles Jorden was born April 10, 1872, and grew up on the farm. At the age of twenty, he started out in life for himself, and for two years, worked with pick and shovel. He then rented 240 acres in partnership

with his brother-in-law, and after a year under this arrangement, he rented forty acres, which he worked for one season independently. After working out as a farm hand a year, he rented a place near Kelly. Later he rented 160 acres near Vermillion, and two years after this, he rented an equal sized place in Harrison township, which he bought a year later, and where he still lives.

He was married September 20, 1892, to Lillie M. Warner, and five children have been born to them, namely: One, who died in infancy; Elmer, farmer near Kelly; John, Charles, Lillie, all living at home. Mrs. Jorden is the daughter of A. B. and Sarah (Knight) Warner. Her father was born in New York, July 25, 1840. He learned the stone mason's trade, and has followed this trade all of his life. He has lived in Minnesota, Missouri, and has lived in Kansas since 1890, when he came to Vermillion. Two years later, he moved to Kelly, where he stayed for eight years, and then came to Goff. Although he is now seventy-six years of age, he plies his trade vigorously. He is a member of the Christian church and of the Knights of Pythias lodge. He is a Republican in politics. He was married, in 1861, to Sarah Knight, who was born in New York, February 23, 1844. She is a devout member of the Christian church. Nine children were born to A. B. and Sarah Warner: three children died in infancy; the others are: Arthur, farmer near Vermilion, father of three children; John and Lyda, deceased; Frank, farmer at Bancroft, father of five children; Lillie, wife of Mr. Jorden; Mrs. Ada Hawley, wife of Golf farmer, mother of five children. Mrs. Jorden was born March 17, 1870. She attends the Methodist Episcopal church, and is a member of the Royal Neighbors of America.

Mr. Jorden attends the Methodist Episcopal church and is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows lodge, in which he has held all offices, and has been past grand master. He is a Democrat, and has been a member of the school board for fifteen years and, for six years, has been road overseer. He is one of the board of directors of the Farmers' Union. Mr. Jorden is a highly respected citizen, and is active in the public affairs of his neighborhood.

**James E. Martin,** farmer and trustee of Granada township, is a son of Thomas J. Martin, postmaster of Wetmore, Kans., who was born in Ohio, May 10, 1851, and is a son of James and Rachel A. (Zepernick) Martin. James Martin was a farmer and stock raiser in the early days of Ohio and frequently drove large herds of cattle from Ohio to the Pittsburg market in Pennsylvania. He migrated to Illinois in 1860 and engaged in live stock dealing for seven years. He came to Kansas in 1868 and bought a quarter section in Capioma township, upon which he lived for ten years and then moved to Seneca, where he served a term as sheriff of the county. He lived in Seneca until his demise. His wife, Rachel, was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, and was mother of nine children, as follows: John, Seneca, Kans.; Thomas J.; J. G., living in Alaska; Albert, a merchant of Seneca, Kans.; Van, deceased; Wil-

liam, killed on the railroad in Colorado; Mrs. Elizabeth Wolfley, St. Louis, Mo.; Mrs. Francis Horn, Indianapolis, Ind.; Ida, died in infancy.

Thomas J. Martin, father of the subject, was born in Ohio. He was reared there and in Illinois and Kansas, where he began working out by the month when eighteen years old. After ten years experience as farm hand he bought a quarter section in Capioma township, upon which he resided for twenty-five years and then located in Wetmore, where he bought and shipped live stock until 1913. He was appointed postmaster of Wetmore in 1914. He is a member of the Masons and is a trustee of the order and is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen. He is a Democrat in politics and filled the office of trustee of Wetmore township for four years and also served two years as trustee of Capioma township. He was married to Elizabeth Lockman, a daughter of David M. and Clarice E. Lockman, natives of Kentucky, who came to Kansas and located in Granada township, Nehama county, in 1855. Mr. and Mrs. Martin have been the parents of the following children, namely: Stewart J., Mildred May and James E.

James E. Martin, subject of this review, was born in Capioma township, January 29, 1884, and attended the district school and assisted his father on the home farm until he was twenty years old. He then worked out by the month for two years in Arizona. Upon his return to Kansas he rented 160 acres near Wetmore for a year, after which he bought an eighty-acre tract north of Wetmore in section 26. He has improved this place nicely and the farm makes him and his family a good living.

Mr. Martin was married on January 1, 1907, to Madge E. White, a daughter of Calvin and Elizabeth (Vanscoyk) White. Three children have been born of this marriage, namely: Madeline Fay, aged eight years; Mildred May, aged five years; Margaret Lucile, aged one. Mrs. Madge Martin was born April 14, 1883, at Clifton, Kans., and was a compositor in the Wetmore newspaper office for a year previous to her marriage. She is a member of the Methodist church and is affiliated with the Knights and Ladies of Security. Mr. Martin is a Democrat and leader of his party in his township. He was appointed trustee of the township to succeed M. L. Loveless, who resigned on account of other business, and was elected to the office at the expiration of his first term. Mr. Martin is a Free Mason and is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. He also fills the post of treasurer and member of the local school board. Altogether he is a very useful and active citizen in his community who believes in doing his share of the civic and governmental work required to keep things moving.

**Jacob Geyer**, well known farmer of Granada township and owner of a fine farm of 200 acres, is probably the oldest native born resident of his township, and has the distinction of having lived in the house, in which he was born for fifty-five years. He comes of sturdy German emigrant



stock, who, as a general thing, make good in America as tillers of the soil, or whatever occupation they take up. For industry and successful tilling of the Kansas soil the German-American residents of Nemaha county have few equals and no superiors. The Geyer family is one of the oldest pioneer families in this county, and takes its beginning far back to the year 1856 when Jacob Geyer, father of Jacob, settled in Granada township on a pre-empted homestead and developed it into a fine farm.

Jacob Geyer, the elder, was born in Germany, April 16, 1830, and was reared to young manhood in his native village. In 1851 he immigrated to America in search of a home and fortune, and began his career in Iowa, where he farmed on rented land for five years. He was married in that State, and in 1856, he came with his young wife to Kansas, and homesteaded in Granada township. He lived on his farm until 1880, and then sold it to his son, and retired to a home at Wetmore, Kans., where he died on October 24, 1901. He was a member of the Evangelical church, and was affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. Jacob Geyer was married at Dubuque, Iowa, in 1853, to Barbara Zimmer, who was born in Germany, August 4, 1830, and immigrated to the United States with her people in 1851. Her parents located in Iowa. Mrs. Geyer has, of late years, united with the Methodist church, because of the lack of an Evangelical church in her neighborhood. Jacob and Barbara Geyer were the parents of ten children, five of whom are deceased. The five living children are: Mrs. Minnie Porr, a widow living near Sabetha; Mrs. Barbara Clinkenbeard, Wetmore, Kans.; Mrs. Mary Clinkenbeard, Oklahoma; Jacob, subject of this review; Mrs. Lizzie Means, a widow, living at Wetmore.

Jacob Geyer, with whom this review is intimately concerned, was born on the Geyer homestead near Wetmore, October 10, 1861, and was reared amid pioneer surroundings at a time when settlers and neighbors were few and far between. He obtained such schooling as was possible in the early days, and has lived all of his life on the farm where he was born. In 1880, he purchased his father's home place and has accumulated a total of 200 acres of well tilled and highly productive land. His largest crop is Indian corn, which he feeds to live stock on his place.

He was married March 24, 1881, to Miss Helena Zabel, and this marriage has been blessed with ten children, as follows: Arthur, a blacksmith at McPherson, Kans.; Mrs. Dora Rarick, living on a farm at Howard, Kans.; Mrs. Mabel Sanders, wife of a live stock commission man at Kansas City, Mo.; Mrs. Lillie Randall, Wetmore, Kans.; Lee, a school teacher at Hamlin, Kans.; Harry, a farmer in Brown county, Kansas; Ethel, a teacher at Whiting, Kans.; Mrs. Gladys Stevenson, living on a farm near Wetmore; Mrs. Merle Bell, on a farm near Wetmore; Helen, a student in the Wetmore High School and member of the class of 1917. The mother of this large and interesting family was born in Wisconsin, December 22, 1860, and is a daughter of Frederick and



Louisa (Zabel) Zabel, natives of Germany. Frederick Zabel, her father, was born in 1824, and was married in his native land in 1849. Five years later, (1854), he emigrated with his wife and family to the United States, and settled in Wisconsin where he farmed until his migration to Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1867. He bought a quarter section near Wetmore, which he farmed until 1886, and then sold and retired to a home in Wetmore, where he died July 23, 1896. Mrs. Louisa Zabel, his wife, was born January 10, 1830, and was a faithful helpmeet to her husband during his long life. She is a member of the Evangelical denomination. Mr. and Mrs. Zabel were the parents of ten children, eight of whom are living: Mrs. Dora Martin, a widow living in California; William, a retired farmer of Holton, Kans.; Albert, deceased; Frederick, a farmer of western Kansas; Mrs. Louisa Mayer, a widow living at Wetmore; Helena, wife of Jacob Geyer, subject of this review; Ferdinand, a farmer of Idaho; Mrs. Mary Johns, wife of a farmer and lumberman of Oregon; Mrs. Christina Rebenstorf, deceased.

Mr. Geyer is a Republican in politics, but finds little time to devote to political matters, and prefers to give his attention to his farming interests. Mrs. Geyer is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. There must be considerable satisfaction in having grown up with a great county such as Nemaha, and to have lived during the pioneer era of a great State in the making. The greatest accomplishment, however, and one of which Mr. and Mrs. Geyer have good and just right to be very proud, is the fact they have reared to young manhood and womanhood a large and interesting family of ten children. Had they done no more than this, they would be entitled to place of honor and should receive honorable mention far above the average in the annals of their home county where these children were born and reared.

**Jacob Wolfley**, proprietor of 800 acres of land in Jackson and Nemaha counties, is one of the old Kansas pioneers, whose career in the West begins with his experience as a freighter across the Great Plains. His father before him was one of the earliest of the Kansas pioneers and came to Nemaha county as early as 1855 and purchased land. Augustus Wolfley, like his son, was a successful man of affairs and was ever on the westward fringe of frontier civilization.

Augustus Wolfley, father of Jacob, was born in Pennsylvania, March 23, 1802 and, while reared in the country, spent a part of his youthful days in Pittsburg, where his father operated a tannery. His father died when Augustus was thirteen years old and he assisted his mother in carrying on the work of the farm and tannery until he became of age. He then left home and went to Ohio, where he became a missionary, preaching the gospel for several years, finally buying a farm in Ohio, upon which he lived for three years and then traded it for a farm of 400 acres near Port Clinton, Ohio. He lived near Port Clinton for several years, and in the meantime made a trip with a son on the lookout for another location farther West. He decided to remove to

Illinois, and accordingly bought 100 acres near Kankakee. From there they went to Iowa and invested in 800 acres in Iowa. He placed two of his sons upon the big Iowa farm and operated it until 1854, when Augustus again moved, this time to the Iowa place, to which he drove by team from Ohio, with five horses. In 1855 he came still farther west and bought land in Nemaha county, near Wetmore. In the following spring he pre-empted a quarter section west of Wetmore and made his home there until his demise, May, 1880. One year later his son drove fifty head of cattle through to the Kansas farm and joined his father there. Augustus Wolfley was a devout member of the Church of God. His wife, Mary Cudney, was born in New York, September 3, 1812, and died May 2, 1878. Nine children were born to Augustus Wolfley and wife, namely: Augustus J., deceased; John, deceased; the third child died an infant; Reuben, deceased; James, sent by his father to Illinois when eighteen years old and later to Iowa on business where he collected some money due Mr. Wolfley and deposited it in a bank, but the family never heard from him again. He is supposed to have been waylaid and killed; Jacob, with whom this review is directly concerned; Theodore, real estate broker in California; Mrs. Mary Morris, deceased; Mrs. Anna E. Bazan, deceased.

Jacob Wolfley was born in Ohio, May 10, 1843, reared on the farm in Illinois and Kansas and began to make his own way in the world when twenty-one years old. The great West at that time offered plenty of adventurous pursuits for a young and able man and Jacob Wolfley could not resist the temptation to have a hand in some of the things which were going on. He was employed in driving herds of cattle across the plains to the western country; drove freight wagons for the government from Fort Leavenworth to Paola, Kans., and also drove freighting outfits to Fort Laramie, Wyo. He was engaged in railroad service for a year and then decided that he needed some more schooling in order to fit himself better to make his own way in the world. He attended school for a year at Topeka, studied for two years in Lincoln College, and afterward pursued a commercial course at Leavenworth for one year. He finally settled down to the prosaic life of a farmer on a tract of 160 acres given him by his father near Wetmore. He homesteaded an adjoining eighty and made this his home for ten years and then erected a home on a quarter section which he owned in Jackson county upon which he lived for twenty-two years. Previous to this his former home not far from Goff had been burned. In 1902 Mr. Wolfley bought a residence property in Goff where he has his permanent home while looking after his large farming interests.

Mr. Wolfley was married in 1873 to Nancy S. Williams, a daughter of Nehemiah and Mary (Studebaker) Williams, the former of whom was born in North Carolina, January 16, 1815, and removed with his parents to a farm in Indiana when but a child. He started out for himself when twenty-three years old and split fence rails in the Indiana

woods for as low as twenty-five cents per hundred. He farmed in Indiana for sixteen years and in 1854 moved to Iowa. Five years later he sold out and migrated to Kansas and pre-empted a quarter section of land in Jackson county, on which he made his home for ten years. He farmed in various localities until he left the farm and moved to Soldier, Kans. After residing there for four years he bought forty acres near Ontario, Kans., and lived with his daughters until his death in 1885. Nehemiah Williams was married to Mary Studebaker in 1838 and five children were born to them, as follows: Mrs. Catharine Whinery; Mrs. Sarah B. Campbell; John W.; Abraham T., deceased; Nancy S., born October 16, 1832. The mother of the foregoing children was born in 1818 and died in 1893.

Nine children have been born to Jacob Wolfley and wife, as follows: Perley M., father of five children, farming near Ontario, Kans.; Mrs. Alice E. Goodrich, on a farm near Wetmore, has five children; Mrs. Ida F. Foley, a widow with two children, living in New Mexico; Mrs. Mary R. Klaiber, wife of a druggist located at San Francisco, Cal.; Sydney J., farmer and stockman, living in Nebraska; Mrs. Nannie H. Spencer, Downs, Kans., mother of four children; Dorsie M., in high school; Earl, deceased; one child died in infancy.

Mr. Wolfley is a Republican who during past years has filled various township offices and taken an active part in civic and political affairs which he now leaves for younger men. He is a member of the Church of God and he and Mrs. Wolfley are religiously inclined. Although past seventy-two years of age, Jacob Wolfley is still active and spry and personally oversees the management of his farms and makes daily trips to the country. He has no notion of stopping work and rusting out as many men of his age are inclined to do, but believes in keeping active as the best antidote for old age.

**Rev. Samuel Munsell.**—The late Rev. Samuel Munsell of Granada township, was born in Missouri, in 1840, and was reared on a Missouri farm. He began to make his own way in the world from boyhood. In 1880, he settled on an eighty acre homestead in Granada township, Nemaha county, and resided there until his death in 1911. He was, for many years, a member of the Christian church, and was a minister of that denomination for over thirty years. Mr. Munsell was married in 1866 to Sarah Jane Cook who bore him eight children, as follows: James, a farmer living near America, Kans.; Joseph, Goff, Kans.; Horace, a road maker and wood sawyer in the State of Washington; Albert, a farmer in Missouri; Mrs. Mary E. Kerr, Valley Falls, Kans.; Mrs. Hester Clifford, Seneca, Kans.; John, deceased; Samuel, a farmer in Harrison township. Mr. and Mrs. Munsell had an adopted son, Charles Munsell, who still lives on the Munsell home place, and cares for his adopted mother. His name by birth was Charles Lackey, born in Cherokee county, Kansas, in 1881, and left an orphan when two years old. His grandparents reared him until he attained the age of nine years, and he

was then adopted by the Munsells. Mr. Munsell is an independent in politics, industrious and capable, and is conducting the Munsell home farm very successfully.

Mrs. Sarah Jane (Cook) Munsell, widow, was born in Missouri, February 16, 1848, and is a daughter of John and Mary Ann (Henderson) Cook, natives of Missouri. John Cook was an early Kansas pioneer who came to this state in 1852 and died from a bullet wound received at Easton, Kans., in the early border days. John Cook was married, in 1846, to Mary Ann Henderson, who was born in Missouri in 1826, and died in Arkansas, March 11, 1898. Mr. and Mrs. Cook were members of the Christian church. They had a family of seven children, as follows: Mrs. Sarah Jane Munsell; James, Josephine, and Burton, dead. After the death of Mr. Cook, his widow was married to Jerry Edwards of Cherokee, Kans., and three children were born to this marriage, namely: Nancy and William; and Benton, living in Arkansas.

**Howard Spiker**, an extensive farmer of Granada township, Nemaha county, is a son of Henry and Mary (Moore) Spiker, who were early pioneer settlers in Nemaha county. Henry Spiker, his father, was born in Ohio, in 1838, and served for three years in an Ohio regiment during the Civil war. He enlisted in the Seventy-eighth Ohio infantry, in 1861 and fought in the Union armies for three years until he received his honorable discharge. He was taken prisoner during one of the great battles in the Southland in which his regiment took an active part and he was placed in Andersonville prison. He remained in this terrible rebel prison for three months and sixteen days until his exchange was brought about. He immigrated to Kansas in 1870 and located on a farm near Mount Pleasant School House in Center township. He developed a tract of 160 acres of prairie land into an excellent producing farm, and left the place in 1876 on account of the ravages of the grasshopper pests, lost his farm on account of debt and became a renter for three years. This enabled him to regain his footing and he again bought eighty acres on the present site of the town of Goff. He set out a large peach orchard on the place and again lost his farm. His next venture was to trade sixteen head of cattle and \$200 for a forty-acre tract near Horton, Kans., where he made his home for twenty years previous to his retirement to a home at Horton. He had become owner of an 120-acre farm and was enabled to buy property at Horton. After a residence of seven years in Horton he invested in a quarter section near Granada, upon which he lived for eight years, then sold it and bought 200 acres in Jackson county which he farmed until his death in 1909. This sturdy and persistent pioneer who achieved a final and lasting success despite misfortune which followed him for several years in Kansas, is deserving of the greatest credit for his accomplishments. He was a member of the Methodist church and was affiliated with the Grand Army of the Republic. His wife, Mary, was born in 1848. Ten children were born to Henry and Mary Spiker, as follows:

Charles, a farmer in Oklahoma; Howard, subject of this review; Sumner, a farmer in Brown county, Kansas; Mrs. Sarah Pickering, Horton, Kans.; William, farming the Spiker home place in Jackson county; Mrs. Fannie Ammon, Netawaka, Kans.; Logan, living on the home place; Mrs. Hallie Benson; Mrs. Allie Bedbork, Horton, Kans.; Algie, a farmer of Granada township.

Howard Spiker, with whom this biography is directly concerned, was born in Ohio, September 27, 1870, and was educated in the district schools of Nemaha county. He assisted his father at home until he was twenty-four years old. He then worked for his father at wages for two years, and teamed in Horton for six months, after which he rented a quarter section near Horton, Kans., for two years. He then rented a farm three miles east of Whiting for a year, after which he bought 157 and one-half acres in Granada township which has since been his home. Mr. Spiker raises fifty hogs or more for market each year and usually has about twenty-five head of cattle each year. He has out over 180 acres in corn, which is his main crop. Mr. Spiker is owner of 247 acres in Granada township and is also farming a half section which adjoins his home place.

Howard Spiker was married March 22, 1894, to Miss Minnie Vanderslice, who has borne him the following children: Melvin, who is married and has two children; Elsie, Mamie, Mildred, Norman, Olive, Lola, William, Harmon and Forest, at home with their parents. The mother of the foregoing children was born in Doniphan county, Kans., on August 10, 1876, and is a daughter of Daniel and Martha (Jeffries) Vanderslice, who were early Kansas pioneers. Daniel Vanderslice was born in Kentucky, September 10, 1844. His wife, Martha, was born in Buchanan county, Missouri, May 11, 1850. Mr. and Mrs. Vanderslice were the parents of ten children, as follows: Lewis and George, deceased; Thomas, a barber in Missouri; Edward, a carpenter of Horton, Kans.; Mrs. Minnie Spiker; Mrs. Nellie McClellan, a widow living at Horton, Kans.; Robert, a farmer in Brown county; John, a farmer at Alma, Neb.; Mrs. Della Moberly, Brown county, Kansas; Charles, at the home of his parents. Daniel Vanderslice is a son of Thomas Vanderslice, who was appointed Indian agent at the Iowa, Sac, and Fox agency, and had charge of all the different tribes of Indians in this part of Kansas, and was the first Indian agent in this State. The Vanderslice family came to Kansas in 1853 and William Vanderslice has lived at the old Vanderslice home near Highland, Kans., since he came to Kansas in his youth. When the Vanderslice family left their old Kentucky home they freed their one family slave. After their arrival in Kansas they were unable to get white help and the elder Vanderslice went to Westport, Mo., and bought a slave woman. Later on they bought more slaves, but sold them during the Civil war. During the Civil war Daniel Vanderslice joined the state militia and was engaged in police and patrol duty for a year's time. In 1864 he went to

Montana, traveling by horseback and ox teams. While there he worked as a freighter and a miner and was with the crowd that opened the road from Big Horn Mountain to Deer Creek on the South Platte River. He remained in Montana for two years and then returned to Kansas and was engaged as a freighter in the early days.

Daniel Vanderslice came to Horton, Kans., when the town was one and a half years old and worked for many years in the railroad shops as a carpenter and is now retired.

Mr. Spiker is a Republican in politics, but has never been a seeker after political preferment. He is affiliated fraternally with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Modern Woodmen, and the Knights and Ladies of Security. He is a member and director of the Nemaha County Farmers' Union.

**Virgil A. Bird**, city clerk of Bern, Kans., and manager of the Scott Lumber Company, is a native born Kansan and a son of Kansas pioneer parents. He was born in Wolf River township, Doniphan county, September 3, 1869, and is a son of George and Emma (Davison) Bird.

George Bird, his father, was born in Litchfield, Conn., November 6, 1834, and was a son of James and Susan (Danhy) Bird, natives of New England. James Bird was a soldier in the War of 1812, and died in 1865. He was the father of ten children, of whom George was the youngest. Leaving the old home in the East, George Bird made a settlement in Doniphan county, Kansas, as early as 1858, cultivated a farm and also worked at his trade of mason in Highland, Kans. He enlisted in the Union army as musician in Company C, Seventh Kansas cavalry, under Colonel Jennison. His first engagement was at the battle of the Little Blue, near Kansas City, Mo., and he went with his command through Alabama, Tennessee and Mississippi. He returned home after the close of the war and preempted a quarter section of land in Robinson township, Brown county, which he later sold and moved to Wolf River township, Doniphan county. He followed agricultural pursuits until his retirement to a home at Denton, Kans.

George Bird was married in 1867 to Miss Emma Davison, who bore him the following children: Virgil A., with whom this review is directly concerned; Wilbur, living at Denton; Mrs. Effie Harless, deceased; Mrs. Stella Harless, Severance, Kans.; George, Jr., farming the old home place. Mrs. Emma (Davison) Bird, mother of the foregoing children, was born in New York State, April 26, 1846, and is a daughter of Henry and Anna (Young) Davison, who migrated to Kansas in 1864.

Virgil A. Bird was reared on the family farm in Doniphan county, and after attending the district schools until he was sixteen years old, he entered Campbell College, at Holton, Kans. He studied there for two years, and then began clerking in a general merchandise store at Severance, Kans. Mr. Bird was first married in 1896 to Cathrine Corcoran, of Severance. She died October 31, 1897. In 1899 he came to Bern and operated a bakery until 1910. He then became interested in



VIRGIL A. BIRD.



MRS. VIRGIL A. BIRD.





the lumber business, invested his capital in the Scott Lumber Company, became a director, and took over the management of the concern, which is one of the prosperous business establishments of Nemaha county.

Mr. Bird was married in 1906 to Eva (Cox) Lehmann, widow of Charles Lehmann, eldest son of John Lehmann. Mrs. Bird was born September 19, 1872, on the Cox homestead, in Gilman township, and is a daughter of Posey W. and Frances (Williams) Cox, pioneer residents of Nemaha county, whose parents were also Kansas pioneers. (See biography of Posey W. Cox and George W. Williams for the family history, traced further back two and three generations). Eva Cox was educated in the Oneida public schools and attended the Western Normal College, at Lincoln, Neb. She taught school for five years in the district schools of her native county, and taught the primary department of the Oneida graded schools for three years, until her marriage with Charles Lehmann in 1900. One child was born to this marriage, namely: Carl, at home. A child, Beverly Bernice, aged five years, has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bird. Mrs. Bird is quite active in social affairs in her home city, and is talented as a writer, one of the most interesting contributions to this volume of history being her "History of Bern, Kans." She is a member of the Christian church, and is affiliated with the Woman's Club of Bern.

One of the most attractive eighty-acre farms and farm residences in Nemaha county is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Bird, which is located two and a half miles northeast of Bern, and is known as the "Sunset." The pretty farm house is surrounded by large evergreen trees, which add to the beauty of the surroundings and enhance the broad, well-kept lawn. The place, as a whole, is well cared for and gives evidence of exacting management and thorough attention to details of farm management.

Mr. Bird is a staunch Republican in his political affiliations, and takes an active part in political matters. He has served as president of the Bern Commercial Club and has filled the post of city clerk since 1909. His fraternal affiliation is with the Knights of Pythias. Mr. and Mrs. Bird are valued and useful citizens of the thriving little city of Bern and enjoy the respect and esteem of hosts of friends. They are proud of the fact that they were born and reared in the great State of Kansas, and also of the fact that their progenitors were among the sturdy army of empire builders whose early struggles gave the Union a great State developed from the prairies.

Mrs. Bird has been a loyal club woman for several years, and she believes that one of the highest ambitions in life should be to help others. This ambition is typical of club women in general, and they have stepped forward eagerly to aid by their counsel and support any movement which had for its object the betterment of civic and social conditions. Mrs. Bird was treasurer of the First District Federation of Clubs for two years, and at the present time she is serving as a member of the Library Extension of the First District Federation of Women's Clubs.

**Melvin H. Spiker**, one of the younger farmers of Granada township, was born in Brown county, Kansas, July 6, 1895. He was reared on his father's farm in Brown and Nemaha counties, and received a district school education. Mr. Spiker is a son of Howard and Minnie Spiker, whose biographies appear in this volume. He assisted his father in tilling the home place until he was eighteen years of age, and then rented a tract of ninety acres from his father, and engaged in farming on his own account. Mr. Spiker has made a success of his independent venture, and has his farm well stocked with thirty-two head of hogs, five head of cattle, five mules and a pony. He raises equal amounts of corn and wheat as his staple crops each year, and usually has good crops.

Mr. Spiker was married on December 24, 1913, to Miss Ida Fuhrer, who has borne him one child, namely: Martha Alaine, born September 30, 1914. Mrs. Ida Spiker was born in Rawlins county, Kentucky, August 29, 1893, and was reared on a farm. She received a good school education, and was employed as clerk in a drug store and as telephone operator, prior to her marriage with Mr. Spiker. Mrs. Spiker is a daughter of Rudolph Fuhrer, deceased, who was born at Thun, Switzerland, February 10, 1863, and died at his home at Wetmore, Kans., February 22, 1916. He came to this country with his parents in 1872, and was married to Rosa Stalder at Pawnee City, Neb., May 5, 1888. After his marriage, he moved to Cheyenne county, Kansas, and farmed in that semi-arid district until 1911, at which time he brought his family to Nemaha county and bought an eighty acre farm a few miles northwest of Wetmore. He made a small payment on the place and he and his family set to work to pay off the indebtedness. Soon they were getting along nicely, and were in a fair way to become prosperous when Mr. Fuhrer's health failed him in 1913, and after a lingering illness, he died. He was buried under the auspices of the Wetmore Lodge of Odd Fellows, of which he was a member. Mr. and Mrs. Fuhrer were the parents of the following children, namely: Mrs. Emma Howell, living on a farm in Granada township; Charles, a fireman on the Burlington railroad at Falls City, Neb.; Mrs. Ida Spiker, wife of the subject of this review; Mrs. Nora Hutchinson, living on a farm in Granada township; Manilla, Hattie, Lillie, and Georgia, at home with their mother. Mrs. Rosa Fuhrer was born in Switzerland in 1866, and came to America in 1884, and made her home at Bern, Kans., living with relatives until her marriage with Mr. Fuhrer.

Mr. Spiker is a Republican in politics, and is one of the hustling and enterprising young farmers of this section of the county, who takes a keen interest in township and county matters of a civic nature. Mrs. Spiker is a member of the Christian church, and both are popular and well liked among their many neighbors and friends.

**Samuel Thornburrow**, cashier of the Wetmore State Bank, was born on a farm in Jackson county, Kansas, April 14, 1865. He is a son of John and Mary (Thorpe) Thornburrow, the former of whom was born in England in 1833, immigrated to America in 1857, and located in Illinois,

where he farmed during the summer months, and worked in the coal mines during the winter seasons for two years. He then went west to Salt Creek valley, in Leavenworth county, Kansas, and followed mining and farming there for two years previous to his removal to Jackson county, Kansas. When John Thornburrow came to this country, he bought a quarter section of land which he developed and tilled until his retirement to a home in Wetmore in 1898. His death occurred December 3, 1900. He was a member of the Episcopalian church, and was a Mason. His wife, Mary, was born in England in 1835, and bore him seven children, as follows: Edward, a farmer in Wetmore; Mrs. Mary Scott, a widow living at Wetmore; Robert, deceased; Samuel, subject of this review; Elizabeth, Wetmore, Kans.; John, died in infancy; Clyde C., farmer and stockman at Wetmore.

Samuel Thornburrow began for himself when he became of age, and bought a quarter section of land which he farmed for eleven years. He then bought his father's home place and managed it from 1898 to 1904. He sold his first farm and bought 160 acres adjoining the home place, and also added another quarter, making 480 acres in all. Later, he sold eighty acres of this large tract and, in 1904, he removed to Wetmore, renting out part of his land and retaining a part for a live stock range until 1909. He served as a director of the Wetmore State Bank from 1901 to 1909, and was assistant cashier until January 1, 1916, at which time he was promoted to the post of cashier of the bank.

Mr. Thornburrow was married December 31, 1890, to Etta Carney, daughter of James and Jane (Cummings) Carney, the former of whom was born in Ireland in 1820, was left an orphan at the age of seven years, and was forced to battle for his own livelihood from that time on. He made his home with a brother until he became of age, immigrated to Canada, and engaged in railroading for several years prior to taking up farming in that country. In 1869, he sold out his holdings in the Dominion, and came to Jackson county, Kansas, where he rented land for twelve years. He next settled in Atchison where he followed teaming until his death, March 28, 1891. James Carney was married in 1862 to Jane Cummings, who was born at Stratford, Canada, in 1831, and died at St. Joseph, Mo., November 30, 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Carney were parents of eight children, namely: Etta, wife of the subject of this review, and who was born at Chipstow, Canada, November 23, 1861, learned the trade of dressmaker and milliner, and followed it at Atchison and Wetmore before her marriage; Mrs. Jane Nance, Wetmore, Kans.; Mrs. Mary Cullen, St. Joseph, Mo.; John, accidentally killed by falling from a building; William, deceased; Mrs. Bessie Couser, deceased; Mrs. Nettie McDonald, deceased; Mrs. Katherine Smith, St. Joseph, Mo. Mr. and Mrs. Thornburrow have an adopted son, Raymond, offspring of Mrs. Thornburrow's sister, whom they took to rear when he was an infant six weeks old. Raymond is a high school student, class of 1917, Wetmore High School.

Mr. Thornburrow is a Republican, and is now filling the post of township treasurer. He is a member of the Episcopal church, and is treasurer of the local lodge of Knights of Pythias.

**Edward W. Thornburrow.**—The measure of an individual success is the ultimate accomplishment of a decade of constant endeavor. The concrete results show for themselves in instances where Kansas farmers have achieved a remarkable success, such as that of Edward W. Thornburrow, extensive land owner of Wetmore, Kans. During thirty-four years in following agricultural pursuits, Mr. Thornburrow has accumulated a total of 1,200 acres of land in Nemaha county and 240 acres in Jackson county, Kansas. Despite the fact that he is able to retire from active labor he personally oversees the work on his home farm of 240 acres and goes daily to his farm. He is a son of John and Mary (Thorpe) Thornburrow, Kansas pioneers whose biographies are given in connection with that of Samuel Thornburrow, banker at Wetmore.

Edward W. Thornburrow was born on a farm near Leavenworth, Kans., January 13, 1861. When he was twenty-seven years old his father gave him a tract of land, which he farmed for fifteen years and made his home thereon. This farm was the nucleus around which his large acreage has been created. Mr. Thornburrow has bought land continuously since beginning his career in Nemaha county. When Mr. Thornburrow moved to Wetmore, he erected a large and commodious fourteen-room residence, of three stories, modern in many respects, with a bath and heating plant. He rents out 1,200 acres of his land and has personal supervision of 240 acres to which he travels each morning and returns therefrom to his home in the evening. Mr. Thornburrow keeps 150 or more Duroc Jersey hogs on his place, sixty-two head of cattle, eight cows and heifers, and generally keeps his farm well stocked.

Mr. Thornburrow was married in 1890 to Isabella Johnstone, who was born in Illinois, September 28, 1871, and is a daughter of William Johnstone, an aged resident of Goff, Kans. (See sketch of William Johnstone.) This marriage has been blessed with one child, Mary Isabelle, born September 25, 1893, a graduate of Wetmore High School, class of 1910. She studied at Evanston, Ill., for one year and spent two years in Kansas University at Lawrence, Kans. After studying at Lawrence she entered Oberlin University, at Oberlin, Ohio, and spent six months in this college. She studied music, both vocal and instrumental, in addition to her classical course and is an accomplished pianist and vocalist.

Mr. Thornburrow is a Republican in politics and has served as treasurer of Reilly township. He filled the office of mayor of Wetmore for three terms. He and Mrs. Thornburrow are members of the Episcopal church. Mr. Thornburrow is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and is trustee of his lodge.

**Harvey H. Lynn**, vice-president of the Wetmore State Bank, was born in Platte county, Missouri, February 3, 1842, and is a son of Hines

C. and Hester Ann (Caton) Lynn, natives of Missouri. Hines C., his father, was born in St. Charles county, Missouri, in 1810. When Hines C. was two years old, his father was killed, being struck by lightning. Hines resided at home with his mother until his marriage in 1836, and then lived on rented farms until 1842, at which time he bought a quarter section in Platte county, Missouri, upon which he lived until 1858. In that year he migrated to Brown county, Kansas, and preempted 166 acres with a Mexican war land warrant. He developed this tract and made his home thereon until his death in 1891. Hines C. Lynn was the father of seven children, as follows: W. W., retired and living among his children; F. M., died as a result of disease contracted while in service in the Civil war; Harvey H., subject of this review; David H., farmer in Brown county, Kansas; three children died in infancy. Hester Ann (Caton) Lynn, mother of Harvey H. Lynn, was born in Warren county, Missouri, in 1813, and died in Platte county, Missouri, in 1850. Both parents were members of the Methodist church.

Harvey H. Lynn was reared on the pioneer farm of the family in Platte county, Missouri, and did not receive any schooling until he was fifteen years old and then had the advantage of but two terms during the winters. When fifteen years old he began earning his own way in the world by driving freighting teams across the great plains in the employ of a freighting company. He followed this adventurous occupation until 1860. In 1857 he drove westward with a large consignment of food stuffs and presents for the Sioux Indians and greatly enjoyed the wild, free life of the great outdoors during his years of freighting and "mule-whacking." In the year 1861 he enlisted for service in behalf of the Union in Company H, Seventh Kansas cavalry, and served faithfully until the close of the Civil war. He was in many famous engagements, such as the battle of Corinth, Miss., Oxford, Miss., Holly Springs, and Granada, and served the greater part of his time under the command of Gen. U. S. Grant. After receiving his honorable discharge from the service he returned to Kansas and again engaged in freighting to the far west until 1867. He then farmed with his father for a year and in 1868 he purchased his father's farm and engaged in the live stock business until 1897. In that year he removed to Wetmore, Kans., and practically retired from active pursuits. In 1882 he and Samuel Morris organized the Wetmore State Bank, of which thriving, financial institution he has been vice-president for the past fourteen years. Mr. Lynn is owner of 175 acres in Brown county, Kansas, and owns 160 acres in Nemaha county.

He married, March 15, 1868, Rose F. Hough, who has borne him children as follows: Washington H., a traveling salesman whose home is at Wetmore; the second child died in infancy; Mrs. Cora A. Burt, wife of a Topeka, Kans., restaurant proprietor. The mother of these children was born in Sandusky county, Ohio, January 14, 1841, and is a daughter of Mason and Susan (Kuhn) Hough, the former of

whom was born in Pennsylvania, in 1816, and became a carpenter and farmer. He migrated to Kansas in 1866 and bought a farm of 700 acres in Brown county, lived thereon for ten years and then divided his land among his children. He retired to a home at Granada in Nemaha county, where he resided until his death in 1892. Mason Hough was a member of the Methodist church and a class leader; was a Republican and served for many years as trustee of his township in Brown county, and also filled the important post of county commissioner for three years. He was married in 1842 to Susan Kuhn, who was born in Sandusky county, Ohio, in 1818, and died in 1894. Mason and Susan Hough were parents of nine children, as follows: Rosana F., wife of Harvey H. Lynn, subject of this review; Henry E., former bank cashier of Lawrence, Kans.; Mrs. Catharine H. Rolfe; deceased; John A., farmer and stockman of Wetmore, Kans.; Washington H., retired hardware merchant, Wetmore, Kans.; Louis, dead; Valentine, farmer in Brown county; Mrs. Amanda Lockman, deceased; Mary E., dead.

Mr. Lynn is a staunch Republican who believes thoroughly in the principles and tenets of his party and supports the Republican candidates. He is a member of the Methodist church.

**William F. Turrentine.**—The Wetmore "Spectator," of which William F. Turrentine is editor and proprietor, was established in 1882, and has had different owners, until Mr. Turrentine bought a half interest in the newspaper in January, 1905. In October of the same year, he purchased the other half interest. On May 26, the plant of the "Spectator" was burned, and everything destroyed with almost a total loss. Mr. Turrentine then borrowed \$900, again issued his paper, and has never missed an issue. While awaiting the installation of his new outfit, the "Spectator" was issued from a Seneca printing plant for two weeks. The "Spectator" has a circulation of twenty quires, and is a well established weekly sheet. Mr. Turrentine has recently started the Netawaka "Chief" at Netawaka, Kans., under the date of May 4, 1916, for the initial number.

William F. Turrentine was born on a farm near Pana, Ill., November 2, 1864, and is a son of Calvin, born at Winsor, Ill., in 1831. Calvin Turrentine was a singing teacher in his younger days and cultivated a rented farm in Illinois from 1861 until 1876. He lived the greater part of his long life in Pana, Ill., where he followed teaming and railroad work until his death in 1907. His wife was Susan P. Downing, born at Cairo, Ill., in 1838, orphaned at the age of twelve years, and subsequently reared by her uncle, Madison Haggie of Hillsboro, Ill. Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Turrentine had children, as follows: Edward E., a printer in Illinois; William F., subject of this review; Alice B., a trained nurse in Chicago; Ida M., deputy clerk of circuit court at Taylorsville, Ill.; Calvin P., a painter; Mrs. Mira E. Foil, circuit clerk at Taylorville, Ill.; Charles S., a railroad bridge carpenter of South Chicago.

William F. Turrentine was educated in the Pana, Ill., public schools, and when fourteen years old, served an apprenticeship in the office of

the Pana "Palladium." Beginning with noon of September, 1879, on the first Monday, he worked for eight years and learned the printer's trade thoroughly. He removed to St. Joseph, Mo., on July 22, 1887, and was employed on the St. Joseph "Gazette" until the spring of 1888. He then went to Centralia, Kans., and worked for four months on the staff of the Centralia "Journal," after which he returned to St. Joseph, and was again employed on the "Gazette" until 1890. He spent six months with the St. Joseph "Herald," and then worked on the staff of the "Daily News" for six years, learning to operate the linotype machine during this period. He learned linotype composition and operation of the first machine used west of Chicago. On March 1, 1897, he rented 160 acres of land near Effingham, Kans. and farmed for eight years. He then came to Wetmore, Kans., and purchased the "Spectator."

Mr. Turrentine was married, September 13, 1893, at Good Hope, Ill., to Alice May Simpson, who has borne him five children, namely: Eva, died in infancy; William F., Jr., born August 19, 1895, a student at Baker University; James S., born June 18, 1897, graduate of Wetmore High School, class of 1916, and a teacher in Brown county; Glenn R., born January 1, 1899, student Wetmore High School, class of 1917; Carl F., born December 26, 1902. Mrs. Alice M. Turrentine was born at Macomb, Ill., March 17, 1867, and is a daughter of F. M. and Amanda L. (Lemon) Simpson, the former of whom was born at Macomb, Ill., in 1842, and has been a farmer all of his life in Illinois. He was married in 1864 to Amanda Lemon, born at Good Hope, Ill., in 1849, and who bore him seven children, as follows: Mrs. Dora Eva Moore, in Colorado; Alice M., wife of subject of this review; James R., a farmer in Colorado; F. W., a farmer at Soldier, Kans.; Charles, died in infancy; Mrs. Martha E. Lindsey, Macomb, Ill.; Albert S., a civil engineer located in California.

Mr. and Mrs. Turrentine are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Turrentine has been superintendent of the Sunday school for the past six years. He is also president of the Epworth League. In politics he is a progressive Republican, and is serving as mayor of the city of Wetmore. He is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and is senior warden of the Wetmore Masonic lodge; is a member of the Eastern Star lodge, and past patron of same; holds membership in the Odd Fellows, Rebekahs and the Modern Woodmen. Mrs. Turrentine is past worthy matron of the Eastern Star lodge, and is oracle of the Royal Neighbors, and a member of the Rebekahs.

**Charles E. Cooley**, owner of a fine farm of 160 acres in Granada township, was born in Illinois, June 25, 1879, and is a son of Roselle and Arimepha (Towler) Cooley, residents of Wetmore, Kans. Charles E. Cooley was educated in the common schools and was reared on the farm. When twenty years of age he began life for himself on an "eighty" which he rented near the town of Goff. One year later he bought a grist mill at Kelly, Kans., and operated the mill for six months. He then sold



it, and after working as section hand for three months, he bought eighty acres near Goff, which he cultivated for three years, then sold out and bought an "eighty" near Bancroft, where he lived for four years. Selling out this place he bought a quarter section in Mitchell township, but traded this place seven months later for eighty acres in Ottawa county, Kansas. Eighteen months later he traded this tract for a quarter section in Granada township, Nemaha county. This was in 1910 and is the present home place of Mr. Cooley. He is a breeder of Poland China swine, of which variety he has fifty head, and also has sixteen head of cattle and eight horses. He operates a portable saw outfit with which he does considerable sawing for his neighbors.

Mr. Cooley was married, December 20, 1899, to Nettie A. Ruhlen, who has borne him children, as follows: Harold, born December 1, 1900; Mabel, born November 9, 1902; Lorimer, born August 25, 1904; Russell, born February 14, 1909; Lois, born May 10, 1911; Lela, a twin to Lois; Edith, died five days after her birth, on August 1, 1913. Mrs. Nettie Cooley was born in Union county, Ohio, September 21, 1878, and is a daughter of Jacob and Lydia (Clevenger) Ruhlen. Jacob Ruhlen, her father, was born in Germany, February 13, 1849, and secured a good education. He taught school for several years in his native land and immigrated to Kansas in 1881 and located on a rented farm in Granada township. A year later he bought eighty acres, which he farmed for two years, then sold out and bought a forty-acre farm in Granada township, upon which he lived for seven years. He then sold it and moved upon the tract now owned by Charles E. Cooley, which he had purchased some time previously. Mr. Ruhlen sawed all of the lumber with which his house and farm buildings were built. After a three years' residence on this farm he rented out his place and moved to Wetmore, Kans., for two years. He then returned to his farm, where he remained for six years. His wife's health failing, he again removed to Wetmore. Two years later his wife again yearned for the farm home and at her entreaties he moved back to the farm, where she died two weeks later. After a residence of two years on the farm with his children, Mr. Ruhlen moved to Wetmore for a year, then traded his farm for eighty acres owned by Mr. Cooley. He is now living on a ten-acre tract in the outskirts of Baldwin, Kans. He is a member of the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs, and is a Baptist. Mr. Ruhlen was married in 1876 to Lydia Clevenger, who was born in Putnam county, Ohio, December 2, 1850, and died in Kansas in 1890. They were the parents of eight children, as follows: The first born died in infancy; Mrs. Nettie Cooley; Lewis, a machinist at Wetmore; Charles, of Madison, N. J.; Minnie, died in infancy; Edna, at home, Baldwin, Kans., and Nellie, who died in infancy.

Mr. Cooley is a Democrat. He is prominent in the Odd Fellows, has filled all chairs of his lodge and is past noble grand of the order. He and Mrs. Cooley are members of the Methodist church and Mrs. Cooley is a member of the Daughters of Rebekah and the Royal Neighbors.



**Martin T. Brock.**—The history of the Brock family of Nemaha county, Kansas, begins with Samuel Brock, father of Martin T. Brock, subject of this review and owner of a quarter section farm in Granada township. Samuel Brock, his father, was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1812. He lived in an Irish village until he became of age and then immigrated to America. For the first twelve years he was employed in a paint factory at Newark, N. J. He then moved west to Illinois and bought a tract of land, which he farmed for ten years, then sold out and moved to Plattsburg, Mo. He farmed in Missouri for three years, in the vicinity of Plattsburg, and then moved to a farm near King City, Mo., and purchased 100 acres, which he cultivated for ten years, eventually selling out and coming to Kansas in 1881. He rented land near Axtell, Kans., for three years and then bought 120 acres in Nemaha county, east of Axtell. In 1884 he built a home and farm buildings on his place in Nemaha county and moved to it. Mr. Brock bought this land for \$7.50 an acre, and it was sold March 18, 1916, for \$85 an acre. The senior Brock lived thereon until his death, on February 16, 1914. He was a devout Catholic and a Democrat in politics, and lived to be over one hundred years old. Samuel Brock was married October 6, 1857, to Bridget Kerns, who was born in Ireland February 2, 1842, and emigrated to the United States when fourteen years old. She lived in Illinois until her marriage with Mr. Brock. There were eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Brock, as follows: Mrs. Katie Hynes, widow, living at St. Joseph, Mo.; Mrs. Hannah Tichlofen, Junction City, Kans.; Mrs. Eliza Tatlow, Cottonwood Falls, Kans.; Martin T., subject of this review; Michael, a farmer of Granada township; Agnes Brock, living at Axtell, Kans.; James, Mammoth Springs, Ark.; John, a farmer living near Axtell, Kans.

Martin T. Brock was born near Plattsburg, Clinton county, Missouri, March 6, 1868, and was reared on a farm and received a common school education. When he was twenty-two years of age he broke prairie land in Kansas for two years and then rented a sixty-acre farm in Clear Creek township, which he farmed for one year. He then rented land in Capioma township for a year, and after a year's residence in Seneca, he rented a tract of 100 acres near that city for a year. For seven years following he rented land in Capioma township and tilled a half section successfully. He then bought eighty acres in Granada township, which served as his home for sixteen years, after which he traded it for his present place of 160 acres, upon which he moved with his family, March 1, 1916. For the past twenty-seven years, Mr. Brock has operated a corn sheller, and probably has the record as a corn sheller operator, on account of having shelled over 3,000,000 bushels in that length of time. For the past two years he has raised over 10,000 bushels of corn on his own account each year. He favors the Duroc Jersey breed of swine on his place and has over eighty head at this time, besides twelve head of Shorthorns, twelve horses and two mules although his livestock is lower

in numbers than is common with him on account of having depleted his stock by close selling in the spring of 1916. All of the products of his farm are fed to livestock on the place, thus insuring the continued fertility of his soil and continued yields of large crops.

Mr. Brock was married to Miss Jennie Parcels, August 10, 1891, and three children have been born of this marriage: Myrtle J., aged twenty-four years, who has taught school for three terms; Mirl, a farmer near Goff, Kans., aged twenty-two years; Leland, aged fourteen years. Mrs. Jennie Brock was born at Watseka, Ill., February 23, 1868, and is a daughter of James and Elizabeth Parcels, old pioneer residents of Nemaha county and now living at Seneca. James Parcels, her father, was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, July 29, 1830, and was the son of a Methodist minister. His parents necessarily lived in several locations, as the father's duties called him and eventually moved to Indiana. When Mr. Parcels was twenty-five years old (1855), he joined a party of twelve men, two of whom were his brothers, on an overland trip to Placerville, Cal. They were five months and sixteen days in making the trip to their destination from Peru, Ind., and it was an eventful and wonderful journey to the young men who formed the party. Mr. Parcels stayed in California for three years and started on the return trip in December, 1858. The party returned home via the Isthmus of Panama and New York City, and landed at New York City on Christmas Eve. Mr. Parcels was married in 1858, but his first wife lived but five years after marriage. One son, George, now deceased, was born of this marriage. Soon after his wife's death, Mr. Parcels enlisted in Company K, One Hundred and Fifty-fifth Ohio infantry, and was mustered out at Camp Denison after his period of service expired. Soon after the close of the war he went to Iroquois county, Illinois, where he and Elizabeth H. Jones were married and eventually lived to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary in Seneca, Kans. Mrs. Parcels was the second daughter of Austin and Syrena Jones and was born in Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Parcels lived for a time at Watseka, Ill., but later went to Ohio and from there returned to Illinois. In 1873 they came to Kansas and took up a homestead near Wichita, but after seven years of grasshoppers, drouths and crop failures, they moved to Alamosa, Colo., in order to make a new start. For eighteen months Mr. Parcels freighted in the mountain country and in the fall of 1881 they returned to Kansas. This time, the family located in Nemaha county and for several years Mr. Parcels rented various farms near Baileyville and in the vicinity of Centralia. He lived for five years on the Kendall place west of Seneca and in the early nineties he bought a place in the western part of the city, which serves as the Parcels home. Mr. Parcels is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and is a Mason. Their children are as follows. Mrs. Jennie Brock; James, Hiawatha, Kans.; William H., of Eureka, Mont.; Mrs. Dora Harper, Seneca, Kans., and Louis B., Hiawatha, Kans. They have fourteen grandchildren.

Mr. Brock is a Republican who takes an active and influential part in civic matters. He served on the school board of his district for fifteen years and was road overseer for two years. He is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America, serving as counsel of the latter organization at Woodlawn for six years.

**Henry Gallentine** is a son of Joseph and Nancy (Miller) Gallentine, natives of Pennsylvania. Joseph Gallentine, his father, was born in 1826, was reared in the Keystone State and immigrated to Kansas in 1884. For the first three years in this State he rented land, and in 1887 he purchased a farm of 120 acres near the town of Wetmore, in Nemaha county. He lived on his farm until his return to Pennsylvania in 1890. Death resulted in his native state from cancer of the stomach, in 1900. During the Civil war, Mr. Gallentine served for three years as a volunteer in a Pennsylvania regiment and was deprived of his hearing during his war service. He was a Democrat in politics. Joseph Gallentine was married in 1852 to Nancy Miller, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1836, and bore him a family of six children, as follows: Henry, subject of this review; Mrs. Emma Bedker, Cripple Creek, Colo.; the third and fourth children died in infancy; Mrs. Maria Mahaney, Uniontown, Pa.; Mrs. Nancy Ellen Miller, deceased.

Henry Gallentine, formerly of Granada township, was born September 2, 1853, in Pennsylvania, and began life for himself when eighteen years of age. He worked at farm labor in his native State until his removal to Kansas in 1879. He invested his capital in 146 acres of land in Granada township, Nemaha county, Kansas, which he cultivated until 1908, at which time he went to Colorado and homesteaded a quarter section of Government land, upon which he is living. Mr. Gallentine was married in 1879 to Miss Phoebe Cramer, a daughter of Frank and Mary (Miller) Cramer, natives of Pennsylvania. Frank Cramer, her father, was born in 1836 and followed farming in his native State until his removal to Kansas with his family in 1878. He located at Sabetha and followed various occupations until his death in 1905. Frank Cramer and Mary Miller were married in 1856 and were the parents of twelve children, as follows: Mrs. Phoebe Gallentine, wife of Henry Gallentine; Levi, killed by a horse at the age of eleven years; Mrs. Hulda Eiker, deceased; Adam, a plasterer, living at Sabetha; Mrs. Rebecca Miller, Norton county, Kansas; Nancy, at home with her mother; Hattie and John, died in infancy; Henry and William, Sabetha, Kans.; Mrs. Lydia Mize, deceased; Elijah, a farmer, living near Wetmore. Mrs. Phoebe Gallentine was born in Pennsylvania, October 30, 1857, and is the mother of nine children, as follows: Mrs. Emma Larabee, Bern, Kans., and mother of three children; Mrs. Ellen Heald, mother of three children, and living at Troy, Kans.; Frank, died at the age of thirty-one years; Mrs. Nora Kleeman, Seibert, Colo., whose husband is a photographer; Katherine, born in 1888; Joseph, farming home place, in Granada township, born in 1890; Edward,

born in 1892, and living at Sabetha; Vernon, born in 1894, and lives in Iowa; Florence, born in 1896, and is at home with her mother. Mrs. Phoebe Gallentine owns 146 acres in Granada township.

When Henry Gallentine came to Kansas he was possessed of one old, blind horse, with which he began farming his Nemaha county tract. He also owned a one-horse wagon. With these assistants he made his start in this county and has become a wealthy man. Since locating in Colorado he has become owner of 320 acres of land and is a capitalist and money lender in his locality. With characteristic shrewdness and blessed with business ability, he saw an opportunity in the western State to make his capital earn money for him and he has succeeded even beyond his expectations in accumulating wealth.

**C. C. Moore** is the owner of 100 acres in Granada township and he rents an additional 253 acres, which gives him a large farm. His parents were J. B. and Mary (Ball) Moore, of Virginia. The father, J. B. Moore, was born in Lee county, Virginia, in 1854. After receiving a rudimentary education, Mr. Moore went out to shift for himself, and at the age of nineteen he set up as a farmer in Virginia, where he rented land until 1892, when he came to Kansas and settled near Powhattan, where he remained five years. Later, he moved on the farm of George Williams, three miles south of Seneca, where he lived until 1914, when he bought eighty acres north of Corning, on which he now lives. He is a Republican in politics.

His wife, Mary (Ball) Moore, was born in Lee county, Virginia in 1855. She was reared on the farm and lived with her parents until her marriage, in 1878. She is a member of the Methodist church. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Moore, as follows: Amanda Brooks Stoldt; C. C., the subject of this review; Mrs. Lora Bales, wife of a farmer near Seneca, mother of three children; Margaret, living at home.

C. C. Moore was born in Virginia, November 13, 1876. At the age of twenty years, he began working out on the farm by the month, and three years later he rented eighty acres in Mitchell township, where he lived for a year. During the next few years he rented different farms and finally bought the 100 acre farm in Granada township, which he owns. He has forty hogs and nine head of cattle. He usually plants 165 acres in corn and thirty to forty acres in wheat and oats. He is a member of the Farmers' Union, and is a Republican in politics.

Mr. Moore was married in 1899 to Cordilia Dean, daughter of Henderson and Sarilda (Brooks) Dean. Ten children were born to them, as follows: Ethel, aged sixteen; Henry, aged fifteen; Lillie, aged thirteen; Minnie, aged eleven; Jessie, aged nine; Millard, aged eight; Joseph, H., aged seven; Grace E., aged five; Iva M., aged two; Florence, aged one. Mrs. Moore was born in Lee county, Virginia, March 11, 1879. Her father, Henderson Dean, was born in Lee county, Virginia, in 1851, and farmed in Lee county all of his life. He owned 200 acres of heavily

stocked land. He was a member of the Methodist church. In politics, he was an ardent Democrat, and for twenty years he acted as road boss in the township in which he lived. He died in 1907. Mrs. Sarilda Dean was born in Claiborne county, Tennessee, in 1857. She was a member of the Baptist church. Two children were born to them, as follows: Cordilia, wife of Mr. Moore, and Peter, a laborer in Kansas City, Kans., father of three children.

**Daniel A. League**, farmer, owner of 120 acres of fine farming land in Granada township, is one of the well known farmers of this section of the county. He is the son of David and Mary (Hudson) League. His father was born in Kentucky in 1840, and started out to work for himself at the age of nine years. He worked out until 1865, and then lived on a rented farm in Illinois. He served as a member of the Fourth Iowa cavalry during the Civil war. He was wounded in the arm and was in a hospital at Keokuk for several months. David League farmed in Illinois and Iowa until 1878, and then came to Kansas, locating in Republic county, where he homesteaded 160 acres. In 1894 he sold out and came to Nemaha county, Kansas, and bought forty acres at Granada. In 1905 he retired and lived in Granada until his death the following year. He was a member of the Masonic and Modern Woodmen of America lodges. Mr. League was a Republican in politics. His wife, Mary League, to whom he was married in 1862, was born in Pennsylvania, October 26, 1845, and was reared in the country. She worked out from the time she was fourteen years old until her marriage. Mrs. League was a member of the Evangelical church. Six children were born to them, as follows: James E., liveryman, Belleville, Kans., father of one child: Theodore F., died in Colorado in 1898, leaving two children; Minnie M. and Thomas J., died in infancy; Mrs. Bertha E. Chase, wife of a Granada township farmer, has eight children; Daniel, subject of this sketch.

Daniel League was born in Republic county, Kans.; February 10, 1883. He bought eighty acres on Wolfley creek, Nemaha county, when he was nineteen years old, and lived there for three years. He bought and sold various tracts and rented farms for several years before settling near Wetmore on the 120-acre tract which he now owns. He has twenty-five head of cattle. He keeps enough stock to eat all the grain he raises and often has to buy feed.

He was married to Ethel Porter, December 25, 1902, and four children have been born to this marriage: David W., aged twelve; Louis M., aged eleven; Rod, aged five; Mary, aged two. Mrs. League is the daughter of William and Nancy C. (Cullom) Porter, of whom more is told in the biography of Mrs. Chester Sourk. Mrs. League was born October 3, 1885, near Wetmore, Kans.

Mr. League is a member of the Masonic and Modern Woodmen lodges and of the Farmers' Union and the Anti Horse Thief Association. He is a Republican, and has served as committeeman.

**Roy Shumaker.**—The history of the Shumaker family in Kansas is a very interesting recital and embraces the long past halcyon pioneer days in the initial period of the development of Kansas and Nemaha county. This family is one of the oldest in the county and the State, and the first settlement made by Frederick Shumaker, father of him whose name heads this review, was made in Granada township in 1856. The elder Shumaker was a freighter and government teamster, who knew the prairie country of the frontier in all of its wildness of sixty years ago, and was possessed of such an abiding faith in the eventual peopling of the waste places that he purchased large tracts of land, which have steadily increased in value with the march of time and the settlement of the country. Roy Shumaker, extensive farmer and bank president of Granada township, has followed closely in his father's footsteps and has emulated his example to a considerable extent by investing in land.

Frederick Shumaker, father of Roy, was born at Mundingen, Baden, Germany, June 28, 1830. He was left an orphan at an early age, and was reared by strangers in a Catholic settlement. He emigrated to America when twenty-three years old, and was absolutely penniless when he landed in New York City. The ship which carried him was forty-five days in crossing the Atlantic. Cholera was raging on board the vessel, and ninety passengers died. He borrowed money from a fellow compatriot with which to pay his passage to Chicago, where he obtained employment in a brick plant for a year, while the cholera epidemic was raging in the city. He went from Chicago to Iowa and worked out as a farm hand until 1856, at which time he migrated to Kansas and homesteaded a quarter section one mile east of the site of Wetmore, although there was no village of Wetmore at that time. After taking possession of his claim and filing his preemption papers at the nearest land office, he went to Fort Leavenworth and hired out to the United States Government as a teamster and for the following fourteen months drove mule freighting outfits to Salt Lake City. This was a dangerous time, inasmuch as Indians were numerous and warlike, and the freight trains were sent out under convoy of a force of 2,000 regular soldiers to guard against attack. When his service expired he purchased a pony and rode to his claim in Nemaha county and began to develop it. Roy Shumaker, his son, has in his possession a receipt given his father for 120 bushels of corn, signed by Hugh Flanigan in 1875. He also has the tax receipts issued in 1861. At one time, in 1860, when money was scarce, Mr. Shumaker traded a wagon load of corn for a pair of boots and delivered the corn to the purchaser in Atchison, Kans. Mr. Shumaker lived on his claim until the railroad was built, and the passing trains killed so many of his cattle that he left his first location and bought a farm two miles north, upon which he resided until 1890. At this time he moved back to his original preemption, and lived thereon until his death, December 16, 1905. He bought land continuously until he became owner of 2,000

acres, which he divided among his children. That is, he gave each child 160 acres, and retained 480 acres for himself, which amount he owned previous to his death, eventually selling all of this except a quarter section. He was a member of the Lutheran Church, and was a Republican politically. His wife, Rachel Jennings, was born in Indiana in 1829. They were married in 1860, and the following children blessed this union, namely: John W., deceased; Roy, subject of this review; Charles, deceased; Sarah Margaret, died of scarlet fever in infancy; Fred, farming 480 acres near Wetmore, Kans.; Jacob L., miller and wagon maker at Goff, Kans. Some time after the death of his first wife, Mr. Shumaker married Cora Pierson.

Roy Shumaker was born on the Shumaker homestead in Nemaha county, November 19, 1862, and when a boy of ten years he herded cattle on the plains. When he became of age he began for himself by working for wages in his father's behalf for two years. He and his two brothers then cultivated land which their father permitted them to till free from rent charges. When Frederick Shumaker distributed his land holdings, Roy received a quarter section which was the nucleus around which his present large holdings of 930 acres have grown as a result of diligence and good financial management. Mr. Shumaker raises and feeds a large amount of live stock and personally oversees his large acreage. He has 200 acres of corn this year (1916).

He was married December 20, 1891, to Miss Addie Logue, who has borne him eleven children, as follows: Ethel, died in infancy; Charles E., aged twenty-two years; Chester H., aged twenty years; Addie, aged eighteen years; Roy W., aged seventeen years; Nora, aged sixteen years; Mary, died in infancy; Freddie J., aged twelve years; Walter, aged ten years; Ernest, aged nine years; Lida J., aged eight years. Mrs. Addie Shumaker was born on a farm near Wetmore, Kans., August 3, 1874, and is a daughter of Oliver and Polly (Murphy) Logue. Her father was born in Platte county, Missouri, in 1843, and migrated to Kansas with his parents as early as 1857. He followed farming until 1896, and then went to Oklahoma and invested in land in that State. He lived in Oklahoma until his demise in 1912. Mrs. Polly Logue was born in 1850, and was the mother of the following children: William M., deceased; John F., farmer in Idaho; Mrs. Addie Shumaker, of this review; Robert, a farmer in Arizona; Charles, living in Oklahoma.

Mr. Shumaker is president of the Farmers' Union in his locality and is a Republican. He served three years as road supervisor and for several years he has been a member of the school board of his district. Mr. Shumaker is vice-president of the First National Bank of Wetmore, Kans. His success as a farmer and citizen has been a striking one and is indicative of inherent and natural ability of a high order.

**Harry Henry**, farmer and stockman, Granada township, is one of the progressive young men of the county. He has started out successfully and if he continues in his present prosperity, he will soon be one of the most prosperous farmers in this part of Nemaha county. Mr.



Henry is a son of Nick and Louise Henry, of whom more is told in another part of this volume. He was born near Goff, Kans., July 1, 1892. He attended grammar school and later completed two years' work at Goff High School. At the age of seventeen years he started out for himself, first renting 480 acres from his father, which he farmed for four years. He worked as a brakeman on the Chicago Northwestern railroad for five months and then bought 320 acres near Goff. The land was not improved except for the fencing, and Mr. Henry lived with his parents in Goff while cultivating this farm. In the fall of 1915 he built a good frame barn and granary and erected a four-room frame cottage on the land. He has stocked his farm until it presents an imposing sight to the visitor. On his place at present are fifty head of cattle, fifty hogs, six mules and four horses.

He was married to Miss Etta Talbott, September 22, 1915. Mrs. Henry is the daughter of Grant and Belle (Thompson) Talbott.

Grant Talbott was born in Iowa in 1872, and came to Kansas City Mo., at the age of twenty-one years to work for the street railway company. Later he was a street car employee in St. Louis and Cleveland. For twelve years he was a brakeman on the Mobile & Ohio railroad, after which he went to Salt Lake City. Three years later he moved to California, and is working for railroad companies. He is a Republican and a member of the Knights of Pythias. He was married in 1892 to Belle Thompson, daughter of Dr. P. Thompson, of Corning, Kans., who was born in Indiana. She was a member of the United Brethren church. She died in April, 1911, at Corning, Kans. Three children were born to this union, namely: Etta, wife of Mr. Henry; Mrs. Vera Delude, Onaga, Kans., wife of a garage owner, mother of one child, and Harry, who makes his home with Mr. and Mrs. Henry.

Mrs. Henry was born in Monrovia, Kans., February 20, 1893, and was reared in St. Louis, Mo. She was graduated from the 1911 class of the Corning High School. She is a member of the United Brethren church and of the Royal Neighbors lodge.

Mr. Henry is active in the affairs of his township and is a member of the Farmers' Union. He is a Republican. Mr. Henry, however, devotes most of his time to his work as a farmer and is intent on making that business a success. He has wisely adopted the practice of allowing nothing to interfere with his business.

**William Johnstone.**—To live a long and useful life and to be able as the maturer years come to retire and live in comfort and security, such is the happy position of William Johnstone, who for many years farmed in Nemaha county, and who now lives in peaceful retirement at Goff.

Mr. Johnstone is a son of William and Isabella (Holliday) Johnstone, both of stanch Scotch blood. William Johnstone, Sr., the father of him of whom this review is written, was born in Scotland. He grew up on his father's highland farm, and never left his native shores. In





FOUR GENERATIONS OF THE JOHNSTONE FAMILY.  
WILLIAM JOHNSTONE, JAMES JOHNSTONE AND WIFE, DAUGHTER AND  
GRANDDAUGHTER.



1826 he was married to Isabella Holliday and they settled down on a farm in the Scottish highland and reared a large family in peace and contentment. Both were members of the Presbyterian Church and lived devout lives in that faith. Eleven children were born to them, as follows: John, died at the age of eighty years; Eugene, deceased; Bessie, deceased; Mary, whereabouts unknown; fifth child died in infancy; William, subject of this biography; Isabella, deceased; Mrs. Judith McEntire, Toronto, Canada; ninth child died when very young; James, living in Canada; the youngest child died in infancy.

William Johnstone, Jr., was born in Dumphreyshire, Scotland, May 18, 1835, and received a country school education. At the age of fourteen he began working out as a farm hand and laborer. He was married at the age of twenty-one and brought his bride immediately to America, locating near Guelph, Canada, where he worked in a saw mill for a period of five years. Having saved a small sum of money, he rented a small farm near Guelph, and for another period of five years he farmed this place with profit. At the end of this time he moved to a larger farm of 100 acres, which he rented for the same length of time, but he began to cast his eyes toward the West, and after his lease had expired he moved to Kansas, renting 320 acres near Muscotah, Atchison county. He found Kansas farming very profitable and in four years time he had saved enough to buy an eighty-acre farm in Nemaha county and moved to it as soon as he could build a house on the place. He set to work erecting a dwelling, which was 16x32 feet in size, and one and one-half stories in height. After this he put up fences, barns, sheds, granary and other improvements, and before long he had an opportunity to buy a thirty-acre tract adjoining his farm. This made him 110 acres, and he farmed this successfully until 1915, when he sold the land to his son, James, and retired to Goff, Kans.

He was married to Isabelle McCall in 1856, and to this marriage eleven children were born: John, killed while working as conductor on the Central Branch railroad; William, shot by robber at Valley Falls, Kans.; James, farmer, Goff, Kans.; Thomas, died in Spokane, Wash.; David A., ranchman in Montana; George, painter in Kansas City; Benjamin, hardware merchant, Goff; Mrs. Mary J. Vanderbord, Kelly, Kans.; Mrs. Isabella Thornburrow, Wetmore; two children who died in infancy. Mrs. Johnstone is the daughter of John and Isabella (Angus) McCall. The father was born in Scotland, where he spent his youth and received his early education in the district schools there. But the routine life on the farm palled on him and as soon as he reached the military age, he enlisted in the army of the king and saw varied and adventurous service with the colors. He fought in the battle of Waterloo under the Duke of Wellington, and was in several other battles against Napoleon's troops. At the battle of Carona he was wounded, and one of the bullets which struck him was not extracted, and he carried it with him to his grave. Because of his wound he received

a pension and did light farming after his retirement from service, but at the age of seventy he no longer felt able to continue his farming and from that retired. His death occurred ten years later. Mr. McCall was a Presbyterian.

Mrs. McCall was born in Scotland, and as a girl worked out in the homes of neighbors. She lived to the ripe old age of eighty years, and was a member of the Presbyterian church. Five children were born to this union: William, deceased, was a ship carpenter in Liverpool; Jean, deceased; Jennie, whereabouts unknown; Mary, whereabouts unknown; Isabella, wife of Mr. Johnstone.

Mrs. Johnstone received her early education in the Scotch schools. From the date of her birth in 1832 until her marriage, at the age of twenty-four, she lived in Scotland. She died in 1902, and was buried at Wetmore, Kans.

Mr. Johnstone is a Republican in politics, and for thirty years he was a member of the school board. For a period of ten years he was road supervisor in Granada township, and he executed the duties of his office with economy and good judgment. His neighbors know him as an upright and highly respected citizen of Goff.

**James Johnstone.**—Residents of Goff know James Johnstone as one of the most industrious and persevering farmers of their vicinity and one who has followed the worthy example of his father, William Johnstone, whose life story is told in full in this volume. Mr. Johnstone is one who has struggled many years against adverse circumstances and come out victorious, and is now enjoying the full deserved ease of retirement after a busy life. He has been so long in the harness that even after he has disposed of his farm land or rented it, he cannot be content to sit entirely idle, and often when he craves the feel of the plow pushing through the fresh spring soil, he goes out to the farm of one of his sons and spends a day in the fields.

Mr. Johnstone was born June 7, 1856, in Cummingsville, Canada, and lived on his parents' farm until he was twenty years of age. On the morning of January 1, 1878, he started out for himself and took charge of a sixty-five-acre farm in Atchison county, Kansas, which he rented for one year. Next, he located on Coal creek, on an eighty-acre place, which he farmed for one season. These undertakings were profitable, and by the end of the second year of independent farming, he had accumulated enough to close a deal for eighty acres in Granada township, Nemaha county. The land was unimproved, and he was further hindered by two bad seasons, in which his crops were ruined. This setback was serious to the young farmer just starting up in life, but it did not daunt him in the least, and when there was nothing to do on his own place, he worked out, often taking as low as \$1 a day for his team and himself in order to earn some money during his idle hours. As the place was totally unimproved, he could put in only the most inexpensive buildings at first. He had to content himself with a straw barn and with



SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF JAMES JOHNSTONE.



a house sixteen feet square. He lived on this place until 1891, having improved it somewhat each year. About that time he traded it for 160 acres in Harrison township, which he farmed until 1913, when he bought twenty acres in Goff and moved there to live in retirement. By this time he had accumulated considerable property, for in 1893, he bought back the eighty acres which he had traded off previously, and in 1897 he bought another eighty acres. He was at a later date the owner of 700 acres; for this he was in debt \$2,800, but in one season, by a clever business maneuver, he cleared enough to pay off this debt, when he refused to sell his corn crop at thirteen cents and held it the following year and received fifty cents a bushel for it.

In addition to his farming, he was an extensive stock raiser and feeder. At the time he moved to Goff he had thirty-eight hogs, eleven head of cattle and twenty-five horses. On most of his land corn and wheat are the chief crops. Since his retirement he has rented all of his land, with the exception of twenty acres in Goff, on which he lives, but as some of his children rent from him, he often visits them and helps them with their work.

January 1, 1878, he was married to Mary M. Gibson, a daughter of Jacob and Leah (High) Gibson, both of Pennsylvania. Mr. Gibson was born in York county, Pennsylvania, June 6, 1823. He was married to Leah High in Clearfield county, Pennsylvania, August 26, 1851, and the early years of their married life were spent in that State. Moving to Peoria, Ill., they farmed for seven years, and in 1871, Mr. and Mrs. Gibson moved to Atchison county, Kansas, locating two and one-half miles east of Arrington. Mr. Gibson became an orphan early in life and was thrown upon his own resources. By turns he was a carpenter, wheelwright and school teacher; but a great deal of his time was spent on the farm. He was the father of eleven children, two of whom are dead. He died at his home near Arrington, March 16, 1900, at the age of seventy-six years.

The mother of Mrs. Johnstone was Leah Gibson, who was born in Clearfield county, Pennsylvania, May 15, 1831, and died September 23, 1901, at the age of seventy years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Gibson were devout Christians and reared their children in the way of piety. Local papers printed appropriate tributes to them when they passed away.

The daughter, Mary M. Gibson, was born in Clearfield county, Pennsylvania, July 22, 1852. At the age of thirteen she moved with her parents to Peoria, Ill., and later came with them to Atchison county, Kansas. She attended district schools in Illinois and Kansas, and later Mrs. Monroe's school at Atchison. January 1, 1878, she was married to James Johnstone, and two years later they moved to Nemaha county, Kansas. Mrs. Johnstone was an enthusiastic worker in the Methodist church. She was the mother of six girls and four boys. She died October 8, 1906, and left a large circle of friends to mourn their loss.

James and Mary M. Johnstone had children born to them as follows:

Mrs. Lillie Jane Roots, Campus, Kans.; John F. G., Campus, Kans.; Mrs. Mamie Davis, Reilly township; Thomas P., Harrison township; Mrs. Maysel Bloom, Adams township; Mrs. Altha, wife of Roy Sheely, Adams township; Harry, Campus, Kans.; Otho, on his father's farm in Harrison township; Mrs. Gladys Jordan, wife of Elmer Jordan, Harrison township; Velra, Goff, Kans.

June 8, 1912, Mr. Johnstone was married to Rosa E. Streng, daughter of George and Anna (Drewes) Streng, whose biographies will be found elsewhere in this volume. Three children were born to this union: Frances Evaline, aged three years; Ethel Louise, aged two years, and Mildred James, an infant. Mrs. Johnstone was born in Germany, November 29, 1891, and received her early education in the schools of the Fatherland. She came to America at the age of seventeen years and worked out until her marriage. She is a devout member of the Lutheran church.

Mr. Johnstone is an independent voter and casts his vote on the side which appears to be in the right, regardless of the party label. He is active in public affairs, and for twenty-two years he served on the school board. He has for many years been a faithful member of the Methodist church, and is a regular attendant at the meetings of his congregation and contributes liberally to the support of the church. Mr. Johnstone is a citizen of whom Goff has reason to be proud, for, although he has never held high office nor amassed a fortune, yet he has gone through the test and has not been found wanting. When adversity was upon him, he did not fail, and in his later years he is reaping generously from the seed which he sowed in the days when he labored long and hard to keep the wolf from the door. He is a man of simple tastes and exerts a wholesome influence on his community, in which he is highly respected and loved.

**Frank G. Millick.**—The story of what has been accomplished during a little over thirty years in Nemaha county by Frank G. Millick, of Neuchatel township, is an epic in itself, and demonstrates that Kansas is still a land of opportunity. From farm hand to the ownership of over 400 acres of Nemaha county land, all of which is in intensive cultivation, is a summary of the life and deeds of Frank G. Millick, who was born in Wisconsin, and is a son of Joseph and Margaret Millick, natives of Germany.

Joseph Millick, his father, was born in Germany in 1805, and emigrated from his native land to America in 1848. He located in Dodge county, Wisconsin, and lived there until 1868 on a farm which he cleared from the wilderness. He sold out in 1868, and made his home with a married daughter until his death in 1877. His death was due to accidental drowning in a creek near Columbus, Wis. He was a devout Catholic and a Democrat. His wife, Margaret, was born in Germany, in 1820, and bore him nine children, as follows: Joseph, deceased; Mrs. Josephine Dean, Fall River, Wis.; Mrs. Hannah Livermore, deceased;



Mrs. Mary Daniels, deceased; Robert, a contractor and builder at Porterville, Cal.; John, a banker at Blackfoot, Idaho; William, a farmer at Challis, Idaho; Mrs. Rose Fisher, living on a farm at Blackfoot, Idaho.

Frank G. Millick, subject of this review, was born on his father's farm near Columbus, Wis., April 16, 1861, and started for himself when he was thirteen years old. After working as farm hand for twelve and a half years in his native State, he came to Kansas in 1886, and bought eighty acres in Neuchatel township, Nemaha county. Prosperity has smiled upon Mr. Millick since his advent into this county, and he has continued to add to his first modest "eighty" until he now owns 410 acres, all of which are under cultivation. His farm is improved with substantial buildings, and he has twenty-eight acres in alfalfa, raises over 100 Duroc Jersey hogs annually, and keeps about thirty-seven head of Shorthorn cattle on his place.

Mr. Millick was married to Elizabeth Langsdorf September 29, 1885. This marriage has been blessed with children, as follows: Oscar, born January 1, 1888; Mrs. Olive Warren, born February 6, 1890; Myrtle, born February 17, 1894; Wesley, born February 20, 1900; John, born March 6, 1903. Myrtle Millick has taught school for the past four years and Wesley is a student in the High School at Onaga, Kans. Mrs. Elizabeth Millick was born at Randolph, Wis., May 10, 1862, and is a daughter of Martin and Elizabeth (Cobb) Langsdorf, the former of whom was born in Germany in 1825, and immigrated to the United States in 1850. He located in Wisconsin, and after a few years' renting, he was enabled to buy an eighty-acre farm, which he tilled for fifteen years, then sold out and bought a small farm of twenty acres near Doylestown, Wis. He lived there until his death in 1901. Mr. Langsdorf was a member of the Lutheran church. His wife, Elizabeth, was born in Germany in 1823, married Mr. Langsdorf in 1848 and bore him ten children, namely: Mrs. Louise Hack and Andrew, living at Columbus, Wis.; Mrs. Kate Bushon and Conrad, both deceased; Fred, a farmer near Vermillion, Kans.; Mrs. Mary Pursky, living near Columbus, Wis.; Mrs. Julia Bork, deceased; John, a farmer at Dodge, Wis.; a child died in infancy; Elizabeth, the sixth child born, wife of Frank G. Millick.

Mr. Millick is a Republican, and is one of the leaders of his party in Nemaha county. He has served four years as township trustee, one year as treasurer, and one year as assessor, and is a very useful and public-spirited citizen. He is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America. Mrs. Millick is a member of the Lutheran church.

**Lemuel L. Newland**, trustee of Red Vermillion township, was born in Virginia, January 28, 1861, and is a son of Isaac Newland, a native of Virginia, who married a Miss Berick. Isaac, his father, learned the trade of shoemaker and followed this trade at Mt. Jackson, Va., during his entire life until his death in 1861. His older sons managed his farm near the town where he plied his trade. His wife was born in 1821. They were the parents of eight children, as follows: Paul, a carpenter

and contractor in Virginia; Pierce, died in Virginia at the age of thirty years; Winton, died at the age of thirty years; Mrs. Jennie Downey, wife of a hardware merchant in Virginia; Caleb, a restaurant proprietor in Colorado; Frank, a twin brother of Caleb, is a confectionery proprietor at Hoxie, Kans.; Mrs. Mary Stricker, living in Virginia; Lemuel L., subject of this review.

L. L. Newland began making his own way when fourteen years old and eventually found his way to Kansas, where he followed farming in Brown county until 1902. He then bought 150 acres in Red Vermillion township, Nemaha county, which is his present home farm. He has on his place, twenty head of cattle, twenty head of Duroc Jersey hogs and twenty head of horses. He has sown thirty-two acres of alfalfa, but raised all the crops adaptable to this soil and climate with fair success.

Mr. Newland was married November 9, 1887, to Sarah Heer, born in Missouri, June 15, 1864, and is a daughter of Henry and Christina (Trock) Heer, natives of Germany and Ohio, respectively. Henry Heer was born in 1817, and immigrated to the United States in 1838. He first located in Missouri, where he lived until 1862, and then came to Kansas and lived in Doniphan county for thirteen years. He finally sold out his holdings in Doniphan county and rented land in Brown county for five years, after which he came to Red Vermillion township, Nemaha county, and bought an eighty-acre tract, to which he later added seventy acres, and lived thereon until his death in 1901. He was a Republican in politics and a member of the Methodist church. His wife, Christina, was born in 1827, and bore him ten children, as follows: The first two died in infancy; Mrs. Mary Jane Overlander, deceased; Robert M., a farmer in Colorado; George, a concrete worker at St. Joseph, Mo.; Sarah, wife of L. L. Newland; Irwin, a farmer of Red Vermillion township; Mrs. Lucinda Felts, Brown county, Kansas; Mrs. Anna Channel, deceased; Frank, a teamster in Nebraska.

Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Newland, as follows: Chester, born in 1888, and farming near Havensville, Kans.; Ivan, born October 6, 1890, living in Dakota; Floy, Mrs. McNeil, born September 16, 1892, living in Red Vermillion township; Ray, born August 24, 1894; Clio, born January 20, 1897; Vera, born August 14, 1899; Zola, born June 4, 1902; Ruth, born July 15, 1907. Mr. Newland is a Republican in politics. Mrs. Newland is a member of the Church of the Latter Day Saints. Mr. Newland has served two years as township treasurer and for the past two years has capably filled the office of township trustee.

**Thomas Donahue** has the distinction of being one of the oldest settlers, if not the oldest pioneer, of Red Vermillion township. He has lived on his farm for the past forty-seven years, and has built the home, barns, fences and sheds and planted the trees and shrubbery which adorn his homestead. He has seen the vast expanse of unpeopled

prairie lands, both hill and vale, transformed into a veritable storehouse of food supplies, which are sent to all parts of the country in exchange for the luxuries and necessities of latter day civilization, which have supplanted the simple and crude needs of the rugged pioneers.

Thomas Donahue was born in Ireland, January 13, 1835, and is a son of Patrick and Mary (Barret) Donahue, who lived and died in their native land. Patrick and Mary Donahue were farm folks in Ireland and were devout Catholics. They reared a family of children, as follows: Mrs. Ann Dunbar, died in Ireland; Anthony, died in Ireland; Mrs. Bridget McCoy, deceased; Thomas, subject of this review; Mrs. Mary Cosgrove, died in America; the sixth child died in infancy.

When Thomas Donahue was fourteen years old, he began to make his own living and worked out by the day and by the month at any honest labor he could get. Opportunities were few and far between in his native country for a boy who was ambitious to get ahead in the world and even in his boyhood days he cast longing eyes toward the far off land of America and dreamed of the day when he could take passage across the broad Atlantic and seek his fortune in the new world, where every man was free to follow his inclinations in the matter of gaining a livelihood, and muscle and brawn were needed in the development of the country. In 1862 he was enabled to sail for America and landed at Baltimore. He soon found employment in a rolling mill, the operation of which was stopped by the rebel authorities, and he was thrown out of a job. He went from there to Wheeling, W. Va., and worked in the rolling mills of that city for two years. He then made his way to Chicago and worked in that city for eight years and was a resident of Chicago at the time of the great fire which devastated the city. In 1869 he came West to Nemaha county, Kansas, and invested his savings in eighty acres of railroad land. He was only able to make an initial payment on the land, however, and was given ten years' time to finish paying for it. He has resided on this farm continuously and has increased his holdings to the large total of 360 acres, which are well improved. Mr. Donahue has thirty acres of alfalfa, and owns from sixty to seventy head of white faced Hereford cattle and 100 head of Duroc Jersey hogs, and has fourteen head of horses on his place.

Mr. Donahue was married May 10, 1866, to Mary McTigue, who has borne him the following children: Patrick, a farmer in Neuchatel township; James, died at the age of forty-one years; Anthony, a farmer in Dakota; William, born April 18, 1876, is farming the home place; Mary, died at the age of nineteen years; David, born in August, 1880, farming in Colorado; Mrs. Katie Clines, living on a farm in Nemaha county; one child died in infancy. The mother of these children was born in Ireland, in February, 1843, and is a daughter of James and Catharine (Heperin) McTigue, natives of Ireland. James, her father, was born in Ireland in 1813, and emigrated to America in 1850. He followed railroad work until 1867, and then made his home with Mr

Donahue for the remainder of his days. Catharine, his wife, was born in 1813, and their marriage took place in 1830. They were the parents of ten children, as follows: Mrs. Marguerite Gaugin, a widow, living in Nemaha county; Mary, wife of Thomas Donahue; Mrs. Anne Flaherty, deceased; Mrs. Kate Barrett, died at Colorado Springs; Helen, deceased; Patrick, a railroad man in Colorado; Mrs. Jane C. Fiery, a widow, living at Leavenworth, Kans.; James, proprietor of a furniture store at Colorado Springs, Colo.

Mr. and Mrs. Donahue are members of the Catholic church.

**James E. Wilcox.**—The life story of James E. Wilcox, merchant of Bancroft, Kans., is a tale of the accomplishments of a man who was left motherless and thrown upon his own resources when fifteen years old. He became a tiller of the soil and made a great success as a farmer; in later years he embarked in merchandising at Bancroft and has become wealthy. Mr. Wilcox operates the general store at Bancroft, conducts a lumber yard, manages the grain elevator, and conducts a hardware and farm implement depot, besides looking after his large farming interests, which embrace 520 acres of land adjoining the village of Bancroft and 880 acres situated in other sections of Kansas. His parents were W. T. and Lucretia (Green) Wilcox.

W. T. Wilcox, his father, was born in Illinois in 1834 and immigrated to Kansas in 1857. He has the distinction of having been the first white settler married in Jackson county. For some years he drove ox teams in the overland freighting business, and at the outbreak of the Civil war he enlisted in a Kansas regiment and served the Union until the close of the war. He then followed active farming pursuits until 1906, after which he made his home at Bancroft until 1916, and then removed to Holton, Kans. He is a Republican and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. Mr. Wilcox was married in 1858 to Lucretia Green, who was born in Missouri in 1838, and died in 1873. Four children were born of this marriage, namely: James E., subject of this review; the second child died in infancy; Mrs. Susan Jane (Thornton) Bristow, Goff, Kans.; Jessie G., deceased.

James E. Wilcox was born in Jackson county, Kansas, September 16, 1859, and was reared on the farm. He began for himself when he was fifteen years old and worked out for \$11 per month. He worked as a farm hand until he was twenty-two years old and then rented land on his own account in Jackson county. Not long afterward he became owner of a farm and continued to buy land as he was able. In 1892 he engaged in business at Bancroft and has built up one of the largest general mercantile concerns in Nemaha county. His stock of goods carried in all lines is valued at over \$10,000, and he does an extensive business among the surrounding farmers.

Mr. Wilcox was married in 1884 to Miss Ella Vannote, who has borne him five children, as follows: Ida May, died at the age of seven years; Clyde, living at Los Angeles, Cal., was engaged in marine service for four years, and is now a member of the Los Angeles police force;

Clarence, a farmer at Bancroft, married Lois Connor; Mrs. Ada Swartz, wife of Louis Swartz, living on a farm in Reilly township; Bernice, a student in the State College at Manhattan, Kans., where she is pursuing a four years' course and will graduate in 1917.

Mrs. Ella Wilcox was born in Nemaha county, November 17, 1865, and is a daughter of John and Lydia (White) Vannote. John Vannote, her father, was born in New Jersey in 1834, and was left an orphan when but a child. He necessarily had to rustle for himself at a very early age. He removed to Iowa and there followed farming until his removal to Kansas in 1860. He lived on his farm of 160 acres in Nemaha county until his death in 1903. Lydia, his wife, was born in Michigan in 1843, and is a member of the United Brethren church. John and Lydia Vannote were married in 1859, and the following children were born to them: Mrs. Sarah Shaffer, living in Jewell county, Kansas; Frank, a farmer, at Mission, Texas; Mrs. Nettie Riggs, living in Reilly township; Ella, wife of James E. Wilcox, subject of this review; two children died in infancy.

Mr. Wilcox is allied with the Republican party and has served two terms as trustee of Reilly township. He is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen lodge. Mrs. Wilcox is a member of the Royal Neighbors.

**John William Geren**, successful farmer of Wetmore township, became familiar in his younger days with all the hardships and vicissitudes incidental to the making of a home on the Western plains and has experienced with his family the pangs of hunger and want in western Kansas. One of the highly prized mementos of the struggle which the family were forced to undergo in western Kansas is a silver dollar given to Mr. Geren's son by his grandfather as a present and which Mr. Geren was tempted to spend for flour when it was badly needed in the home. He thought better of it, however, and did not spend the money. He is a son of John W. and Mary (Davenport) Geren, whose life stories follow.

John W. Geren, his father, was born near Knoxville, Tenn., in February, 1824, and he was left fatherless when ten years old. Being the eldest of seven children, the burden of the family support fell upon his young shoulders and he cared for his mother and family until he was twenty-six years of age. He then married and took his old mother along with him to his new home and cared for her until her death. He went to Indiana from Tennessee and farmed there for a year, following which he went to Illinois and lived there for twenty years, after which he spent two years in southwestern Missouri. Two years later he returned to Illinois and bought back the half section of land which he had sold near Denver, Ill. Two years later (March 3, 1873), he migrated to the West and bought a half section near Severance, Kans. He farmed this tract for twelve years and sold it preparatory to locating in western Kansas, where he preempted 320 acres. After struggling for six years in the semi-arid country to make ends meet, Mr. Geren sold his land

for a mere trifle and came to Bancroft, Kans., purchased a home and lot and lived there until his death in 1910. His was an adventurous and nomadic life and it is recorded that during the days of 1849, when the gold excitement was at its height and men were rushing madly Westward in search of the elusive and shining metals, he drove overland from Illinois to Pike's Peak, and after a year's hardships and adventures he returned home without the coveted riches. He was a member of the Seventh Day Adventist sect and was a Republican voter. John W. Geren was married in 1846 to Mary A. Davenport, who was born in Indiana in 1831. Nine children were born to this marriage, as follows: Mrs. Jennie Shinn, Bancroft, Kans.; John William, subject of this review; Abram L., a railroad engineer, living in Canada, and has a wife and seven children living in Oklahoma; six children are deceased.

John William Geren, with whom this review is directly concerned, was born in Illinois, December 29, 1859, and began for himself when twenty-six years of age. He bought a livery business at Severance, Kans., and operated it for three years. He then sold out and went to western Kansas and homesteaded 320 acres. After struggling to make a living on his homestead for four years, during which time his family suffered from actual want, he sold out and came to Marshall county, Kansas, and rented 500 acres of land for the following four years. He then rented a quarter section from his father-in-law, near Severance, Kans., for two years, and was enabled to buy 157 acres of raw land near Bancroft, Kans., in Wetmore township, Nemaha county. Mr. Geren has improved this tract with substantial buildings and has created a fine farm, having increased his holdings to 237 acres in Kansas and fifty acres in Oklahoma.

Mr. Geren has forty acres of alfalfa and a large fruit orchard, which includes 300 peach trees in bearing and 200 pear trees now eight years old and in bearing. He raises high grade Shorthorn cattle and produces over 100 head of Duroc Jersey hogs annually. This is quite an accomplishment when one considers the ups and downs which Mr. Geren has had during life time. He recalls that when he located in western Kansas he had just \$1.25 in cash. At one time the larder was cleared of flour and he found it necessary to borrow from his father in order to avoid spending a dollar which had been given to his fifteen months' old son by his grandfather. This son is now thirty-one years old and prizes the silver dollar as a valuable keepsake and an indication of the love given him by his parents, who placed sentiment above all other considerations in a trying time.

Mr. Geren was married to Miss Addie Poynter, July 19, 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Geren have three children. William E., born at Severance, Kans., February 8, 1885, worked for a railroad in St. Joseph, Mo., for a year when he attained his majority, but has been farming with his father for the past seven years. William E. was married December 24, 1909, to Clara Frederickson, born June 15, 1888, daughter of

Christian and Martha (Erickson) Frederickson, the former of whom was born in Denmark in 1838, became a carpenter; immigrated to America in 1875 and located near Whiting; farmed 160 acres until 1904; was postmaster of Bancroft for nine years, and is now retired. Martha, his wife, was born in Denmark in 1851. William E. Geren is the father of four children, as follows: Willma N., deceased, and Willette Helen, twins, born August 15, 1910; Raymond E., born July 22, 1912; Lena May, born August 7, 1914. Mary Helen Clare, second child of Mr. and Mrs. Geren, was born August 11, 1887, in Ness county, Kansas, in a sod house, graduated from the Bancroft High School and is the wife of Hugh C. Hyder, a clerk in the Bancroft store, and a son of David and Margaret Hyder, of Belleville, Kans. He was born February 1, 1876, and followed farming until he entered the Bancroft store in March, 1915. Mr. and Mrs. Hyder were married in 1905. Percy Earl is the third child of John W. Green, and was born May 2, 1902, on the Green home place, near Bancroft, and is a student in the Bancroft public schools. The mother of the foregoing children was born November 8, 1864, on a farm near Severance, Kans., and is a daughter of Samuel and Helen (Follett) Poynter. Samuel, her father, was born at Adrian, Mich., June 8, 1821, and, when a boy, accompanied his parents to Ohio. He was married in 1854 and was employed in hewing ties from logs at a wage of fifty cents per day in his younger days until he had saved enough money to buy twenty acres of land. He went to Missouri in 1856, and farmed in that State until the outbreak of the Rebellion. Being a Northern sympathizer, he was forced to leave. Enroute to Kansas he traded his Missouri farm to a man whom he met in exchange for the other's Kansas farm. It was a case of trading "sight unseen," but suited both parties, because the Kansas man had to leave because he was a rebel at heart and Mr. Poynter was likewise forced to leave Missouri. He still owns the 120-acre farm at Severance, Kans., and is now residing at Bancroft at the home of his granddaughter. His wife, Helen, was born near Pioneer, Ohio, August 29, 1831, and bore him the following children: R. E. Poynter, painter and carpenter at Holton, Kans., and Addie, wife of John William Geren.

Mr. Geren is a Republican. He and his family are members of the Christian church.

**John W. Crowley**, trustee of Reilly township, Nemaha county, Kansas, was born on a farm near Logan, Hocking county, Ohio, September 3, 1869. He is a son of William and Elizabeth (Good) Crowley, natives of Ireland, the former of whom was born in 1838 and the latter in approximately the same year. William Crowley was reared and educated in his native country and received an education somewhat above the average. He immigrated to the United States in 1869 and operated a general merchandise store at Buena Vista, Ohio. Previous to his emigration from Ireland, he had followed the trade of baker there and had thus gained considerable business experience, which stood him in good stead in the newer country. After a short experience in mercan-



tile pursuits, he engaged in farming in Hocking county, Ohio, where he died in 1872. His wife, Elizabeth, after the death of her husband, nobly set to work to support her growing family and succeeded in rearing them to become useful men and women. William and Elizabeth Crowley were the parents of the following children: Mrs. Anna Potter, wife of a hotel proprietor in Cleveland, Ohio; William, a hardware merchant at Ellensburg, Wash.; James, a farmer and waterworks employee at Seattle, Wash.; John, subject of this review; Mrs. Elizabeth Fast, whose husband is a merchant at South Perry, Ohio; Joseph, a farmer at Ottawa, Kans.

John W. Crowley, subject of this review, began for himself at the early age of twelve years and received a wage of \$5 per month as farm laborer in his native country in Ohio. When fifteen years old he came west to Kansas in search of his fortune and eventually found it in Nemaha county, Kansas. He worked as farm hand for several years, and in 1896 he made his first investment in eighty acres of land in Bourbon county, Kansas. He farmed this tract for four years and then sold it. He came to Nemaha county and rented 110 acres in Reilly township for one year. He then rented 270 acres for another year. By this time he had determined upon the tract which he intended to purchase and accordingly bought 160 acres of the 270 acres which he had been renting. In 1911 he bought the remaining 110 acres, which he is farming successfully. Mr. Crowley conducts general farming operations and keeps an average of forty head of Shorthorn cattle and raises over 100 head of Duroc Jersey swine annually.

Mr. Crowley was married May 16, 1890, to Miss Minnie Allen, who has borne him children, as follows: Martin, born January 18, 1892, a farmer in Reilly township; Hubert, born February 27, 1901; Russell, born May 24, 1903; Charles, born November 10, 1904; Harry, born November 1, 1906; Nellie, born June 24, 1908; Alberta, born June 18, 1911. Mrs. Minnie Crowley, mother of the foregoing children, was born in Nemaha county, Kansas, March 27, 1875, and is a daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Barnett) Allen, pioneer settlers of Nemaha county. Henry Allen, her father, was born in Franklin county, Ind., September 13, 1831, and was reared in Indiana until he was twenty-one years old and then began renting land on his own account. He farmed on rented land in Illinois until 1858, and then immigrated to Nemaha county, Kansas. He drove an ox team and cows from Illinois to his new location in this county, and preempted eighty acres of Government land, on which he built his pioneer home. He prospered in the years following his advent into Kansas and continued to buy land until he owned 441 acres. He farmed his home place until 1898 and then retired to a home at Soldier, Kans., where his death occurred May 20, 1910. The Republican party always had the allegiance of Henry Allen and his patriotism compelled him to apply for enlistment in the Union army at the time of the Civil war, but he was rejected because of a crippled hand.



His wife, Elizabeth, was born near Dayton, Ohio, August 4, 1834. Mr. and Mrs. Allen were the parents of the following children: William, died at the age of twenty-four years; Mrs. Alice Wilson, deceased; Albert, a real estate man at Denver, Colo.; Mrs. Clara Hannum, deceased. Mrs. Crowley's grandparents on her father's side were Samuel (born in Franklin county, Indiana, in 1803, and died in Kansas in 1868) and Olive (Wallace) Allen (born in Bennington county, Vermont, in 1800, and died May 25, 1888). Samuel Allen was likewise an early Kansas pioneer, who settled in Nemaha county on an eighty-acre preemption adjoining that of his son as early as 1858. There were two children by her first marriage and four by the second marriage. Her first husband was a Mr. Howe. Mrs. Elizabeth Allen was a daughter of Anderson and Margaret Barnett, natives of Virginia and Kentucky, respectively. Anderson Barnett was born in Virginia in 1811, and was a pioneer in Ohio and Illinois. He died May 27, 1888. He was a Whig, and was a member of the Quaker sect. Margaret, his wife, was born in Kentucky in 1814. Mr. and Mrs. Barnett were the parents of eighteen children.

Since locating in Nemaha county, Mr. Crowley has taken a prominent and influential part in the civic and political life of the county. He is allied with the Republican party and is one of the real leaders of his party in Reilly township. He served for some years as district clerk and for eight years as trustee of the township. He is a director and vice-president of the local Farmers' Union.

**William E. Karns**, proprietor of a half section of well improved farm land in Wetmore township, was born in Ontario, Kans., February 9, 1883, and is a son of George and Caroline (Kehrwecker) Karns, late of Nemaha county and Ontario, Kansas, whose biographies appear in this volume of Nemaha county history.

Mr. Karns was reared on his father's farm near Ontario, and began renting land from his widowed mother when twenty-four years old. In 1911 he was given a tract of land taken from his father's estate. At his mother's death he inherited another tract of eighty acres, and he added to this tract an "eighty" which he bought, thus making 320 acres of land in all which he owns. Mr. Karns conducts general farming operations and has fifteen acres of alfalfa. He keeps his farm well stocked with about forty head of cattle.

Mr. Karns was married to Miss Rose Spencer, April 21, 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Karns have two children, namely: Harold, born March 14, 1908, and Neil, born May 11, 1913. Mrs. Rosa Karns was born on a farm near Circleville, Kans., May 8, 1882, and is a daughter of William and Mary (Figley) Spencer. Her father was born in Missouri, July 7, 1850, and began to make his own way in the world when still a small boy. When he was eight years old he made a trip to Kansas. He has followed farming nearly his whole life, with the exception of three years spent in the silver mines of Colorado. He purchased a quarter section

near Circleville, Kans., in 1885, and has lived continuously on his farm since that year. He is a member and a deacon of the Christian church, and for the past twenty-seven years has been a member of the school board.

His wife, Mary, was born in Ohio, February 15, 1858. Mr. and Mrs. Spencer are parents of thirteen children, as follows: Mrs. Nettie Richardson, Oklahoma; Mrs. Lena Brown, Wathena, Kans.; Thomas, farming in Oklahoma; Rosa, wife of Mr. Karns; Mrs. Bertha Disney, on a farm near Porters, Kans.; Ross, a farmer near Downs, Kans.; Mrs. Ethel Brumbaugh, wife of a merchant at Porters, Kans.; Mrs. Ina Kissell, wife of an editor at Porters, Kans.; Fred, George, Fayette, and Essie, at home with their parents; one child died in infancy.

Mr. Karns is vice-president of the Bancroft State Bank, a thriving financial institution, which is incorporated with a capital of \$15,000. He is allied with the Republican party, and is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mrs. Karns is a member of the Christian church.

**Harvey Hittle**, farmer of Reilly township, was born in Rush county, Indiana, April 14, 1845, and is a son of Henry and Mary (Busell) Hittle. Henry Hittle, his father, was born in Greene county, Ohio, January 15, 1818, and became a wheelwright and carpenter. He followed his trade until 1887 in Indiana and Iowa, where he also followed farming. In 1887 he sold his farm and retired to a home at Lovilia, Iowa, where he died August 14, 1897. His wife, Mary, was born in Ohio, September 4, 1817, and bore him children as follows: Sarah Ann, born November 13, 1841; William, born in September, 1842; Hester Ann, born October 12, 1843; Harvey, born April 14, 1845; Elizabeth, born September 4, 1846; Barney, born April 6, 1848; Lydia M., born May 3, 1849; Elithia J., born June 20, 1850; Mary C., born April 4, 1852; Susan P., born December 15, 1853; Francis A., born November 20, 1854; John D., born February 8, 1856; the thirteenth child died in infancy, September 4, 1857; Nancy C., born October 23, 1858; Henry Elwood, born April 14, 1860; Greenbury, born August 30, 1861.

When Harvey Hittle was twenty-two years old he rented land in his native State for two years and then migrated to western Iowa in 1869. Seven years later, (1876), he came to Kansas, and farmed for five years in Doniphan county. He then took up a timber claim in Rawlins county, Kansas. In 1881 he bought eighty acres in Reilly township, Nemaha county, which has been his home for the past thirty-five years. During the Civil war, Mr. Hittle served for two years and four months as a member of Company C, Eighth Iowa cavalry.

Mr. Hittle was married to Sarah Jane Gano, April 30, 1878, and this marriage has been blessed with sixteen children, as follows: George M., born January 23, 1879; a child died in infancy, April 9, 1880; John H., born January 29, 1881; Robert A., born December 1, 1882; Alma O., born July 23, 1884; Jessie R., born April 4, 1886; Charles William, born

November 23, 1887; Mary E., born July 24, 1889; Melissa B., born April 11, 1891; Benjamin F., born January 15, 1893; Alice V., born June 27, 1895; James M., born August 16, 1897; Clarence, born February 14, 1900; the fourteenth child died in infancy, January 13, 1902; Bernice Loretta, born April 23, 1903; the sixteenth child died in infancy, March 19, 1905. The mother of this large family was born in Marshall county, Iowa, December 12, 1863, and was married to Harvey Hittle, April 30, 1878. She is a daughter of Nicholas and Elizabeth (Wilkes) Gano. Her father was born in Ohio, August 27, 1838, and followed farming in Iowa, Kansas and Missouri. He departed this life, December 9, 1868. Elizabeth, his wife, was born in Greene county, Indiana, May 20, 1843. By her marriage with Mr. Gano, there were five children, as follows: Robert, born August 6, 1860; George W., born December 12, 1863; Sarah J., born December 12, 1863; Emily N., born July 6, 1865; Matilda J., born March 17, 1867.

Mr. Hittle is a Republican and has served as a member of the local school board and as road overseer. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. The most notable accomplishment of his long life, however, aside from his service in behalf of the Union, is the fact that he and his good wife have reared one of the largest families in Nemaha county and honor and credit is due them for their large contribution to the civic body of the county and State.

**Michael Malone.**—The late Michael Malone of Reilly township was one of the oldest of the Kansas pioneers, and was one of the earliest of the settlers of Reilly township, Nemaha county. He was a veteran of the Civil war and left a record behind him at his demise, of which his descendants may well be proud.

Michael Malone was born in Ireland in 1825, and lived in his native land until he was seventeen years old. He then realized his youthful dream of coming to America in search of fortune and adventure, and found both in the years that passed after his arrival on the hospitable and friendly shores of the new world. He first located in Illinois, and worked out as a farm hand until his removal to Iowa, where he farmed until the outbreak of the Civil war. When the call came from President Lincoln for volunteers to quell the rebellion of the southern States, this loyal, adopted son of America responded, and fought bravely in defense of the Union from 1861 to the close of the war when he received his honorable discharge from Company A, First Iowa cavalry regiment. After his discharge, he engaged in railroad construction work with four teams which he owned. He followed this occupation for a season, and then came to Kansas, and purchased 126 acres in Jackson county, which he farmed for twelve years. He then sold this tract and bought a half section in Reilly township, Nemaha county, which he improved and made his home thereon until his demise on April 22, 1905.

Michael Malone was married in 1869 to Catharine Boucher, who was born in Ireland, November 15, 1839. To this marriage were

born children, as follows: Mary, born June 27, 1871; John, born October 20, 1874, farming the home place and owns 160 acres; William, born June 17, 1877, and died June 30, 1880. Mrs. Malone and her children are members of the Catholic church. Mr. Malone was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

**Joseph F. Severin.**—For an individual to begin his career in Nemaha county with a quarter section of land only partially improved and to increase his holdings to the large total of 720 acres in a little over twenty years is remarkable and is an indication of financial and agricultural ability of a high order. It requires intelligence and concentrated effort for a farmer to succeed as well as Joseph F. Severin, of Marion township, has done, and his success is in keeping with the ambition and character of the man himself. The secret of Mr. Severin's success is partially explained when it is known that he is an extensive breeder and shipper of Duroc Jersey hogs of the pure bred class, and to this special department of farming he has devoted his attention for several years, and he usually raises and ships from 250 to 300 head of hogs annually in car load lots direct to the city markets.

Joseph F. Severin was born in Doddridge county, West Virginia, February 19, 1867, and is a son of Frederick J. and Julia Ann (Rahrig) Severin, for further details of whom the reader is referred to the biography of Frederick W. Severin, a brother of Joseph F., who resides in Marion township. Joseph F. Severin was reared on his father's farm in Doddridge county, West Virginia, and attended school but three months out of each year until he was seventeen years old. He remained at home, assisting his father on the home place until he attained his majority. In 1888 he left the old home and made his way to Doniphan county, Kansas, where he worked as a farm hand for two years for \$20 per month. He then went west to Montana and followed various occupations for a little over a year, when he returned to his old home in West Virginia. He remained there until 1892, and then returned to Kansas and clerked in a grocery store in Doniphan county, and also engaged in the grain and live stock business with his brother, John B. Severin, at Bendena, Kans., until his marriage in 1895. After his marriage he located in Nemaha county and bought 160 acres of land in section 17, Marion township. This farm was poorly improved with a small house and a typical Kansas pioneer barn, built of poles and roofed with hay and straw. It is needless to state that Mr. Severin's farm is well improved at the present time with a good farm residence and well built outbuildings of a modern type. During the twenty years he has been in Nemaha county, industriously applying his talents, fortune has smiled upon this West Virginia gentleman and he has accumulated a total of 720 acres of land, 240 acres of which are in his home farm in Nemaha county, 160 in Marshall county, Kansas, and 320 acres in Osborn county, Kansas. He is an extensive live stock raiser and has made a success of raising Duroc Jersey hogs for market.



FARM RESIDENCE OF JOSEPH F. SEVERIN.



Mr. Severin was united in marriage with Miss Nancy Gray, of Doniphan county, Kansas, on February 20, 1895, and to this union have been born the following children: Ethel, Erwin and John, at home with their parents. Mrs. Nancy Severin was born on a farm in Doniphan county, February 29, 1860, and is a daughter of James and Hanora (Kirwin) Gray, natives of Ireland, and early pioneer settlers in Doniphan county. For a history of the Gray family in Kansas, the reader is referred to a "History of Doniphan County," written and published in 1905, by Patrick Gray, a brother of Mrs. Severin.

Mr. Severin is allied with the Democratic party, but has never sought political preferment of any kind. Mr. and Mrs. Severin are members of the Catholic church and contribute of their means to the support of this denomination.

**William D. Calder**, owner of a fine farm of 160 acres in Reilly township, was born in Marshall county, Illinois, September 29, 1870, and is a son of James D. and Mary (Vincent) Calder, the former of whom was born in New York, on October 30, 1841, and worked for his brother-in-law while he served in the Union army. Shortly after his marriage he purchased eighty acres in Illinois and farmed it for ten years, after which he sold out and bought land in Iowa, where he lived for three years when he sold out and again bought land in Illinois. He remained there for twelve years, and then immigrated to Nebraska, where he bought 320 acres which form his present home place. For the past sixteen years, J. D. Calder has been retired from active farming, and makes his home at Hardy, Neb. He is a trustee of the Methodist church, is a Republican, and is affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen. The senior Calder was married in 1868 to Mary Vincent, who was born at Syracuse, N. Y., on March 8, 1842, and who was a teacher previous to her marriage. J. D. and Mary Calder were parents of five children, namely: Mrs. Sarah Goodenough, Thornburg, Iowa; William D., subject of this review; Fred, a farmer at Hardy, Neb.; Mrs. Gertrude Richardson, Minneapolis, Minn.; Mrs. Harriet Twinem, Hardy, Neb.

William D. Calder received a good common school education, and attended business college at Lincoln, Neb., previous to making his own way in the world at the age of twenty-two years. He first bought 125 acres in Republic county, Kansas, upon which he lived for five years, and then sold out and bought an eighty near Goff. Five years later, he sold this tract, and bought 120 acres near Bancroft upon which he lived for five years. He sold out then and went to Hardy, Neb., where he engaged in the hardware business for one year. This was a losing venture, and he disposed of his stock of goods and bought a quarter section in Reilly township, where he is now living. This farm is known as the "Square Deal Stock Farm," and noted for its pure bred Poland China swine, of which there are 100 head on the place. Mr. Calder also keeps high grade Durham cattle. In addition to his own farm, he rents

another eighty acres, and has planted this year about ninety-five acres of corn, sixty acres of wheat, and twenty-five acres of oats, the production of which acreage he feeds to live stock on the place.

Mr. Calder was married February 28, 1893, to Miss Alice Davis, a daughter of Lyman A. and Anna (Hoyt) Davis, who has borne him three children, as follows: Dewitt, a graduate of the Goff, Kans., and Hardy, Neb., schools, born at Warwick, Kans., January 17, 1894; Mrs. Fern Henry, living near Goff, born August 27, 1895, and graduated from Goff High School; Marion May, born November 28, 1900, student at Bancroft School, class of 1917. Mrs. Alice Calder was born on a farm near Goff, Kans., September 21, 1877, and is a daughter of Lyman A. Davis, who was born at Florida, N. Y., September 6, 1839, and died at Bancroft, Kans., January 8, 1910. He immigrated to Wisconsin, and served in the Third Wisconsin volunteer cavalry regiment from 1862 to 1863, and was mustered out of the service at Ft. Leavenworth, Kans. He migrated to Kansas in 1866, and settled in the Maple Shade neighborhood where he resided until a short time previous to his demise at Bancroft, Kans. Mr. Davis was married at Bangor, Wis., on August 28, 1864, to Anna A. Hoyt, who bore him children, as follows: William E., Davis, Ontario, Kans.; H. G. Davis and D. E. Davis, Goff, Kans., and Mrs. Alice A. Calder, and Effie who died in infancy. Mrs. Aurelia Anna (Hoyt) Davis was born at Big Prairie, Kalamazoo county, Michigan, November 22, 1847, and died December 8, 1914. Mr. Davis was a member of the Odd Fellows, and Mrs. Davis was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church for forty-five years.

Mr. Calder is a Republican who has served on the school board, and filled the offices of trustee and township clerk. He is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is past grand of the order. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen lodge. Mr. and Mrs. Calder are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Calder is the efficient superintendent of the Goff M. E. Sunday school.

**Rudolph J. Hanni**, proprietor of an excellent modern farm of 160 acres in Reilly township, near Corning, was born at Bern, Kans., October 30, 1877, and is a son of Gotlieb and Marie (Blauer) Hanni, natives of Switzerland. His father, Gotlieb Hanni, was born in 1838, and immigrated to America in 1871. He located at Bern, Nemaha county, Kansas, and after two years spent as farm hand, he homesteaded an eighty acre tract, and later bought an additional eighty acres. He farmed his tract until his death in July, 1901. He was a member of the Lutheran church. Marie Blauer, his wife, was born in 1843, and she and Mr. Hanni were married in 1869. Gotlieb and Marie Hanni were parents of the following children: Gotlieb, a farmer living near Bern, Kans.; Mrs. Emma Reinhart, deceased; Mrs. Mary Beyreis, Du Bois, Neb.; Mrs. Lena Ramsyer, Dickinson county, Kansas; Rudolph J., subject of this review; Mrs. Rosa Hinton, Baileyville, Kans.; John, a farmer in Jackson county.



Rudolph J. Hanni started out in life for himself at the age of nineteen years, and worked as farm hand at monthly wages for two years. He then rented 160 acres on his own account for two years. After a four months' trip to California, he decided that Kansas was the best place for him to live after all, and he again worked out by the month until the following spring, after which he bought 160 acres in Reilly township, near Corning, which is his present home. This year, (1916), Mr. Hanni has sown seventy-five acres of corn, thirteen acres of alfalfa and fourteen acres of oats. He has thirteen head of cattle, sixty-seven head of hogs, and thirteen head of brood mares and mules.

Mr. Hanni was married in 1900 to Emma Blauer, a daughter of Gotlieb Christian and Marie (Berger) Blauer. Her father was born in Switzerland on December 26, 1835. He immigrated to America in 1870, and followed market gardening near Chicago, Ill., for eight years. He then came to Corning, Kans., rented for five years, and then bought eighty acres near Corning upon which he lived until his death, April 9, 1904. Marie, his wife, was born in Switzerland, March 17, 1836, and died September 11, 1902. She was the mother of five children, as follows: Marie, died in infancy; John, deceased at the age of thirty-seven years, at Corning, Kans.; William, lives in California; Fred, died in infancy; Emma, wife of Mr. Hanni, was born at Corning, Kans., February 13, 1878.

Mr. and Mrs. Hanni are parents of four children, namely: Lola Amelia, born January 17, 1902, and died in infancy; Lula Marie, born May 7, 1904; Beulah Wilma, born November 2, 1906; Von William, born June 23, 1915, all born at Corning, Kans. Mr. Hanni is a Republican, and is a member and conductor of the Farmers' Union. He and Mrs. Hanni are members of the Methodist church, and Mrs. Hanni is affiliated with the Knights and Ladies of Security.

**John Butler.**—The late John Butler of Reilly township, Nemaha county, Kansas, was born on a farm in Illinois, February 10, 1848. He was reared to young manhood in Illinois, and migrated to Kansas in 1885. He at once located in Reilly township, and developed a fine farm of 160 acres, which is now owned by his widow. Mr. Butler departed this life on February 18, 1914. He was a life long Democrat and a good, industrious citizen of whom many kind and appreciative words were spoken in praise of his many good qualities at the time of his demise. He was married on October 20, 1901, to Mrs. Lucy (Hinton) Green, widow of Edwin A. Green. She was a daughter of Zacharias and Frances (Caton) Hinton, natives of Kentucky. Zacharias Hinton was born and reared in Kentucky. When the Civil war broke out, he enlisted for service in a Missouri regiment, but contracted measles while on duty and died. He was father of three children, namely: Mrs. Mary Ellen (Brunson) Brownfield, living at Holton, Kans.; Anna Rowena, died in infancy; Lucy Margaret, widow of John Butler. She was born in Missouri, on February 19, 1862, and began working out as

a domestic when fourteen years old. She was first married on May 2, 1880, to Edwin A. Green, and bore him children, as follows: Mrs. Eva Myrtle Palmer, of Holyoke, Colo.; Enos Edgar, deceased; Amos Noel, a farmer at Phillipsburg, Kans.; Walter Clarence, a laborer at Logan, Kans.; Ross Anthony, a farmer at Logan, Kans.; Beulah Alma, at home with her mother. The mother of these children was separated from Edwin A. Green in April of 1897, and in 1901, she was married to the late John Butler, who was a kind and indulgent husband, and was a good parent to her children.

John Butler was twice married. His first wife was Sarah Elizabeth Warner, who bore him four children, as follows: George, Wallace, Kans.; Claude M., Chicago, Ill.; Melva, Chicago, Ill.; Louis, Chicago, Ill.

**Adolph J. Gabbert**, the oldest living settler and farmer of Reilly township, was born in Germany, June 30, 1845. He is a son of Gotlieb, born in Germany in 1793, and Christina (Schwackenwaldt) Gabbert, born in 1800. He was the eighth of nine children, born to his parents, as follows: Frederick, died at the age of seventy-five; Mrs. Minnie Redman, died at the age of forty-five; William, died in Iowa, aged seventy-five years; Mrs. Rosana Stach, died at the age of forty-seven years; Mrs. Augusta Schmidt, died at the age of twenty-seven years; August, died at the age of seventy-three years; Louis, living in Chicago, Ill., and Adolph J., Sr., subject of this review.

Mr. Gabbert began making his own way when fifteen years old, and when seventeen years of age, he immigrated to America. For five years, he worked on the railroads in Indiana, and then came to Kansas in 1867, and invested his savings in 360 acres of land in Reilly township, which he improved and has since made his home. Mr. Gabbert is well provided with this world's goods, and his lifetime of ceaseless endeavor and hard work have enabled him to retire from active work in 1901, at which time he turned over the management of his large farm to his son, Adolph, Jr.

He was married, in 1867, to Miss Louisa Keeter, a daughter of August and Wilhelmina Keeter. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Gabbert, as follows: Augustus F., a farmer in Reilly township; Mrs. Alice Reilly, living on a farm in Reilly township; three children died in infancy; Adolph, Jr., farming the home place; twins died in infancy. Mrs. Louisa Gabbert was born in Germany in 1848, and died in April, 1881. Her father, August Keeter, was born, reared, and married in Germany, and immigrated to America in 1857. He first located in Indiana, and farmed there until his death in 1883. His wife and the mother of Mrs. Gabbert died in 1909. They (Mr. and Mrs. Keeter) were parents of children, as follows: Louisa, wife of the subject of this sketch; Augusta, lives in Ohio; Mrs. Minnie Terry, a widow living in Indiana; a child died in infancy. Mr. Gabbert is a Democrat in politics, and is a member of the Lutheran church.

Adolph Gabbert, Jr., owner of 186 acres on his own account in Reilly township, was born January 5, 1879, in Nemaha county. He was reared to young manhood on the parental farm, and began for himself when he was twenty-one years old. He has had charge of his father's large farm for the past sixteen years, and also farms all of his own land. Mr. Gabbert has recently planted an orchard of 125 trees on his place, and is an industrious young farmer. He is a Democrat, and has served as township treasurer for two terms, and is a candidate for township trustee this year (1916). He is a member and president of the Farmers' Union for the past two years. Mr. Gabbert was married on March 19, 1902, to Evaline Wilcox, a daughter of William T. and Sarah (Timmons) Wilcox. For the biography of William T. Wilcox, the reader is referred to the sketch of J. E. Wilcox. Sarah Timmons was the third wife of William T. Wilcox, and was born in Indiana, December 16, 1859, and died August 26, 1886. She was the mother of the following children: Mrs. Josephine Gabbert, Reilly township; Mrs. Julia May Whitcraft, Axtell, Kans.; Mrs. Johanna Maud Rice, Gooding, Idaho; Evaline, wife of A. J. Gabbert, Jr.; Emeline Faulkender, Bancroft, Kans. (twin sister of Evaline); twins died at birth. Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Gabbert, Jr., have five children, namely: Harold, born September 7, 1903; Hazel, born March 15, 1905; Roland and Ralph (twins) born May 2, 1907; Francis, born April 21, 1913. The mother of these children was born on a farm near Bancroft, July 17, 1883. She is a member of the United Brethren church.

**William Broadbent**, proprietor of a fine farm of 160 acres in Red Vermillion township, was born in Illinois, December 8, 1879, and is a son of Valentine and Marian (Walters) Broadbent, whose biographies are found in the review of the life of R. E. Broadbent in this volume. When William Broadbent was twenty-four years old, he went to California, and was employed in an orange grove for two years. Upon his return to Kansas, he rented land for two years, and then purchased the quarter section upon which he has lived since and has added some improvements thereon. He has over forty head of Duroc Jersey hogs and some cattle and horses.

Mr. Broadbent was married, in 1900, to Gurta Funk, born on a farm near Corning, Kans., October 17, 1879, and a daughter of Christ and Julia (Bergesen) Funk, natives of Denmark and Norway respectively. Christ Funk was born in 1857, and emigrated from Denmark to this country when eighteen years old. He lived in Illinois until 1879, and then came to Kansas, and settled on a quarter section near Corning, upon which he lived for four years. He then went to Emporia, Kans., and engaged in the egg and poultry business until his death in 1911. He was a member of the Lutheran church, and was a Democrat. His lodge affiliation was with the Improved Order of Red Men. His wife, Julia, was born in Norway in 1849, and came to America when eighteen years of age and worked in Illinois, previous to her marriage.

Both she and her husband were employed by Clark Mills before their marriage, and a year after they were married, they accompanied Mr. Mills to the West, and hauled the lumber for their new home all the way from Chicago. They reside on the old homestead near Corning. Mr. and Mrs. Funk are parents of three children, namely: Gurta, wife of William Broadbent; Charles, on the home place with his mother; Mrs. Amelia Hoffman, whose husband is a drayman at Waterville, Mich. Mr. and Mrs. Broadbent have six children, as follows: Phyllis, born June 21, 1905; Allison, born April 20, 1907; Edwina, born October 28, 1908; Veda, born March 11, 1911; Donna, born July 30, 1914; Muriel, born April 9, 1916.

**Jesse Jones**, owner of 323.8 acres of good farm land in Red Vermillion township, was born and reared in his home county, and is a son of one of the very earliest pioneer settlers of the Corning neighborhood. His father is Albert Jones, born in Sweden in 1839, and emigrated from his native country to America when a young man. He was one of the original homesteaders who located on eighty acres, near Corning, in Nemaha county, and lived thereon until he suffered a paralytic stroke in 1914. Since this time, he has made his home among his children, who are caring for him. He began with practically nothing when he homesteaded in this county and, in the course of time, he accumulated a total of 663 acres which he divided among his children, retaining, however, the original preemption tract for himself. During the early days when Atchison, Kans., was the nearest trading point, Mr. Jones hauled a load of corn to Atchison, and received in return a calico dress for his wife and a first reader for one of his children. When there was a failure of the corn crop in Kansas, he husked corn in Nebraska, and hauled it the entire distance to his home in Nemaha county with a team of oxen. Few young persons, living now-a-days in comfortable homes, have any realization of the hardships undergone by the early settlers who developed Nemaha county, yet withal, they were happy, far happier and more contented with their lot than a great many folks at the present time. All were alike; one was as rich as his neighbor; everybody was hospitable and kind and neighborly. Albert Jones was trustee of his township for some years, and took an active and influential part in township affairs. His wife, Nancy, was born in Ohio in 1843, and was mother of twelve children, as follows: Mrs. Melvina Booth, Wallace county, Kansas; William, a farmer near Corning; Charles, a farmer near Soldier Kans.; Frank, a carpenter in Oregon; Mrs. Ella McKee, living near Havensville, Kans.; Jesse, subject of this review; Edward, a farmer near Corning; Mrs. Addie Gerlt, on a farm near Corning; Mrs. Myrtle Morgan, living near Corning; three children are deceased.

Jesse Jones was born on February 3, 1876, and received a district school education. When he was twenty-one years old, he began renting land which he farmed until 1910 and then bought 160 acres in Red Vermillion township. He lived on this tract until 1916, and then traded for

his present farm of 323.8 acres. He raises Duroc Jersey hogs, and keeps from thirty to forty head of cattle on the place.

Mr. Jones was married in 1897 to Miss Margaret McKee, who was born near Havensville, Kans., March 4, 1880, and is a daughter of Bartholomew and Matilda (Darst) McKee, the former of whom was born in Indiana in 1853 and came to Kansas when a young man. He has been a successful farmer, and owns 290 acres in Pottawatomie county, upon which he makes his home. His wife, Matilda, was born in Ohio in 1853. Mr. and Mrs. McKee have eight children, as follows: Perry, a farmer; Mrs. Addie Massey, on a farm near Corning; Frank, at home; Maggie, wife of Jesse Jones, subject of this sketch; John, a farmer near Onaga, Kans.; Mrs. May Wesley, on a farm near Soldier; Mrs. Rose Holliday living on a farm near Havensville, Kans.; Henry, at home. Mr. and Mrs. Jones have four children, namely: Percy Floyd, born March 20, 1898; twins died in infancy; Inez Marie, born September 8, 1900; Edith Myrtle, born October 17, 1908; Albert Lloyd, born August 18, 1911.

Mr. Jones is a Republican in his political affiliations, and usually supports the Republican candidate. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and is also a member of the Farmers' Union.

**John Stoldt**, owner of a fine farm in Red Vermillion township, is a native born citizen of Nemaha county, and is a son of Henry and Mary (Holtz) Stoldt, natives of Germany. His father, Henry Stoldt, was born in 1841, and emigrated from the fatherland in 1866. He located in Illinois, and did farm labor for two years. He then came to Kansas, and bought school land in Nemaha county. He rented this tract to his own father, and rented another piece of land on his own account for two years, when he moved to his own place, and lived thereon for seventeen years. He then rented his home farm to one of his sons, and bought 120 acres near Sabetha, where he lived for two years, after which he bought eighty acres near Kelly, after renting his 120 acre farm to another son. A year later he sold 120 acres, and bought a quarter section adjoining his "eighty," and rented the tract to his son. He is now making his home on the farm near Kelly. When Henry Stoldt came to this county, his only possession was a twenty dollar gold piece. His sister died, and he spent this money to give her a decent burial. This was a discouraging beginning in a new and strange country but he eventually triumphed over all difficulties, and later became owner of over 700 acres of good Kansas land, nearly all of which he has given to his children. To become a wealthy land owner in this country such as Henry Stoldt became, is a long cry from a yearly wage of \$32, such as he received in Germany. His wife, Mary, was born in Germany, and accompanied her husband to America, shortly after their marriage in 1866.

Henry and Mary Stoldt have reared a family of children, as follows: Frank, at home with his father; Frederick, dead; John, subject

of this review; the fourth child died in infancy; Mrs. Etta Hunt, living on a farm in Missouri; three children died in infancy; Mrs. Mary Te-garden, on a farm near Kelly.

John Stoldt was born April 28, 1872, near Sabetha, and attended district school until he was eighteen years of age. He then worked for his father for fourteen years, and was given an eighty acre farm as a reward for being a dutiful and industrious son. In exchange for this kindness he gave his parents \$50 a year as a gratuity for three years, the gift being refused by them at the end of the fourth year. He then sold his "eighty" and bought 159 acres in Red Vermillion township for \$11,000 in cash. He has made this tract his home since this purchase, and has added many substantial improvements in the way of a large barn and residence, and is erecting a cattle barn at the present time. Mr. Stoldt has fifteen acres of nice, growing alfalfa and raises high grade Durham cattle of which he has twenty-nine head, besides having twenty-three head of Jersey swine on the place.

Mr. Stoldt was married, in 1893, to Miss Ella Ford, a daughter of Nathan and Carrie (Lawrence) Ford. Nathan Ford, her father, was born in Illinois in 1836. He followed farming and came to Kansas in 1860, and located near Kelly, in Nemaha county. He later conducted a general merchandise store for three years prior to his death. He then sold out his store and made his home with his daughter until his death. He served as superintendent of the county farm for four years, and was a Democrat in politics. His wife, Carrie, was born in Kentucky in 1839, and bore him ten children, as follows: Mrs. Sarah Shubert, living near Kelly; John, dead; Mrs. Nancy Morrow, a widow living near Kelly; Mrs. Mollie Dennis, wife of William Dennis the mayor of Seneca, Kans.; Thomas, a blacksmith of Kansas City, Mo.; Mrs. Jane Ridgway, living near Oneida; Margaret and Alfred, dead; Ella, wife of the subject of this review; Charles, a farmer in Wallace county, Kansas. Mrs. Ella Stoldt was born on the family farm near Kelly on April 6, 1875.

To Mr. and Mrs. John Stoldt have been born nine children, as follows: Jesse, born October 25, 1896, and died five months later; Lydia, born January 22, 1898; Ruby, born September 29, 1901; Vera, born July 19, 1905, and died July 10, 1907; Galen, born January 22, 1906 at home; Lloyd, born April 21, 1907; Lee and Cleo (twins) born January 7, 1911, and died at the age of eleven months; Veda, born July 19, 1913.

Mr. Stoldt is a Republican in politics, but has no time to devote to political matters outside of doing his duty at he polls and voting for the candidates of his choice. Mrs. Stoldt is a member of the Methodist church. Mr. and Mrs. Stoldt are industrious, honest, and ambitious citizens who stand well in their home community and have many warm friends, who esteem them very highly for their many good qualities.

Claude Grigsby, owner of 320 acres of farm land in Red Vermillion township, was born in Holt county, Missouri, August 10, 1872, and is

a son of J. L. and Amelia (Moore) Grigsby. His father, J. L. Grigsby, was born on a farm in Illinois, in 1845, and received a good school and college education in his younger days. When nineteen years of age, he located near Burr Oak, Mo., and farmed with his uncle for thirty-five years. He then came to Red Vermillion township, Nemaha county, Kansas, and bought 160 acres of land on which he resided until his demise in 1907. He prospered in this county, and was a large land owner. He was a Democrat and a Free Mason. His wife, Amelia, was born in Illinois in 1850, and died March 11, 1900. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Four children were born to J. L. and Amelia Grigsby, as follows: Edward, died at the age of nine years; Claude, subject of this review; John L., a commission man in Kansas City, Mo.; Mrs. Edna McKaig, living at Centralia.

Claude Grigsby was reared on his father's farm and received a district school education. He remained with his parents until thirty years old, and began for himself by renting his father's home place. When his father died, he received 160 acres of land as his share of the estate, and was also given a one-third interest in a quarter section, adjoining the home place, which he purchased in its entirety from the other heirs. He has twelve acres of alfalfa, and raises wheat, corn, and oats.

Mr. Grigsby was married on February 11, 1903, to Mabel M. Whistler, who has borne him children, as follows: Lambert, born October 28, 1904; Dorothy, born August 28, 1906; Claude, born August 21, 1910, and departed this life on October, 1911; Elizabeth and Edward, (twins), born January 8, 1914, and died same day; Kenneth and Keith, (twins), born October 11, 1915. Mrs. Mabel Grigsby was born at Corning, Kans., August 22, 1873, and is a daughter of Henry C. and Adda (Danley) Whistler, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania in 1830, and followed railroad work when he became old enough to do a man's work, until 1878. He then began farming in Kansas, and bought a quarter section near America City, to which he later added another "eighty." He lived on his Nemaha county farm until his death in 1906. He was a member of the Methodist church, and was affiliated with the Odd Fellows and the Free Masons and was a Democrat in politics. His wife, Adda, was born in Pennsylvania, in 1840, and bore him eight children, as follows: Mrs. May Lederer, Havensville, Kans.; Mabel, wife of Claude Grigsby, subject of this review; Meta and Nellie, died in infancy; Adda and Henry, (twins), of whom Adda died in infancy, and Harry is employed in the serum department of Armour & Company at Kansas City, Kans.; Mrs. Elizabeth Brack, on a farm near America City; John, a farmer of America City, also postmaster and merchant.

Mr. Grigsby is a Democrat and the leader of his party in Red Vermillion township, where he is serving as central committeeman. He is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and belongs to the Farmers' Union and the Grangers. Mrs. Grigsby is a member of the Methodist church.



**Roland A. Bonjour.**—One of the very earliest pioneer settlements in Nemaha county was that made by Swiss and French emigrants in Neuchatel township, nearly sixty years ago. These brave and hardy people crossed the seas to America in search of a home in the western country, and found it amid the trackless and unpeopled prairie lands of Kansas. The hardships they endured were similar to those of other Nemaha county pioneers, but they eventually made homes in the waste places, and their crops replaced the waving prairie grasses as the years passed. These people were idealists in a way and formed a close colony which existed for a time, and was eventually replaced by the individualistic plan which has always been successful in this country where the efforts of the individual are generally rewarded. Roland A. Bonjour, trustee of Neuchatel township, is a son of one of these sturdy Swiss emigrants who settled in this township in 1857. Mr. Bonjour's father was J. A. Bonjour, a native of Switzerland.

J. A. Bonjour was born in 1830, and immigrated to this county as early as 1855. Two years later, he made a location in Neuchatel township, Nemaha county, Kansas, and bought a preemption from the original homesteader. He resided on his farm until his death in 1878. He was a member of the Presbyterian church. His wife, Sophia, was born in Switzerland in 1826, and died in 1895. They were the parents of six children, as follows: Julia, died at the age of nine years; Mary, died in infancy; Charles, a farmer in Washington State; J. A., a farmer in Neuchatel township; Roland A., subject of this review; Arnold, died at the age of one year.

Roland A. Bonjour was born in Neuchatel township, January 1, 1863, and was reared on the pioneer farm. His schooling was necessarily limited, and he began making his own living when sixteen years old. For five years, he rented a part of the home farm from his mother, and when his mother died in 1895, he bought the place from the heirs. The first home of the Bonjour family was a log cabin erected when Mr. Bonjour, the elder, first settled in Kansas. This was replaced by a five room frame house when Roland A. was five years old. At that time the residence was the best in the neighborhood, but this old home was again replaced by a more pretentious and larger structure erected by the subject in 1912. This is a beautiful home and in keeping with the standing and prosperity of its owner, who has succeeded better than the average Kansas farmer in accumulating land and substance during the many years, in which he has been tilling the Kansas soil. Mr Bonjour owns 400 acres of well tilled and well improved land in Neuchatel township.

He was married on June 3, 1884, to Nan Burdette, a daughter of William and Sarah (Toothman) Burdette, natives of West Virginia. William Burdette, her father, was born in Putnam county, West Virginia, on April 7, 1839, and farmed in his native State until his removal to Ohio in 1908. His death occurred in 1916. He was a member of



the Baptist church, and espoused the cause of the Confederacy during the Civil war. Sarah, his wife, was born in Greenbrier county, West Virginia, on January 10, 1839. William and Sarah Burdette were married in 1865, and were parents of five children, as follows: Nan, wife of Roland A. Bonjour; John, a fruit farmer in Oregon; Charles, died in 1914, at the age of forty-four years; Mrs. Esther Cordts, Wamego, Kans.; the fifth child died in infancy. Mrs. Nan Bonjour was born in Monroe county, West Virginia, on April 3, 1866. Mr. and Mrs. Bonjour are parents of two children, namely: Mrs. Effie Tally, born April 19, 1885, living on a farm near the Bonjour home place; Walter, born June 9, 1890, farming near his father's home.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Bonjour know what real hardships were during their younger days, and are deserving of their later success inasmuch as they have accomplished much by the exercise of hard work and economy. They are well content to look back over their early struggles, and consider, with thankfulness, that Providence has been kind to them and theirs. Mrs. Bonjour worked out as domestic when a girl and received the small sum of fifty cents per week for her labor. On one occasion which she recalls, she broke a sugar bowl, and was charged a week's wages as a fine.

Mr. Bonjour is a member of the Modern Woodmen lodge. Mrs. Bonjour is affiliated religiously with the Congregational church. The Republican party has generally had the allegiance of Mr. Bonjour, and he is one of the county leaders of his party. He served his township as treasurer for two years, and is serving his fourth year as township trustee.

**Ralph A. Hybskmann.**—Many youths are ambitious to learn a trade, but very few young men have any further ambition after they have become a journeyman. They settle down to a humdrum existence with no future in store except a long life as a wage earner. Ralph A. Hybskmann is above the average type of journeyman, and has moved his ideal higher and become a business man. When he learned the plumber's and tinner's trades, it was only natural that he should later become a master plumber and employ journeymen in his shop.

Ralph Hybskmann was born December 29, 1876, at Marysville, Kans. To his parents, August and Marguerite (Nelson) Hybskmann, ten children were born, nine of whom are living. Ralph was the fifth child.

Mr. Hybskmann comes of Danish stock, his father having been born in Denmark in 1837. When about thirty years of age, he left Denmark, where he worked as a miller, and came to America, settling in Galesburg, Ill. He came to Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1870, and worked in the Seneca flour mills. Afterward he ran a mill at Marysville, and bought and operated a mill at Centralia until he retired in 1909. He died March 26, 1916, at Centralia, Kans. He always took an active interest in politics, and was an ardent Democrat. He was a

member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Ancient Order of United Workmen. The mother of Ralph Hybskmann was born in Denmark in 1847, and lives in Centralia, Kans.

Ralph Hybskmann, of whom this sketch is written, attended school at Centralia, Kans., and at the age of twenty, apprenticed himself to the tinner's trade working for A. B. Clippinger & Company. After working there six months, he came to Seneca, where he worked at his trade until 1901. In that year, he launched into busines for himself, in partnership with T. E. Bateman. He proved a successful business man and after a year and a half of the partnership, Mr. Hybskmann purchased the entire business, and later moved the shop to Axtell, where he combined his plumbing business with furniture in a partnership with J. W. Hybskmann, his brother. Six years later, he bought his brother's interest and conducted the business until 1912, when he returned to Seneca, and established a plumbing business. Since coming to Seneca, he has doubled his stock and now carries a complete line of hot air furnaces and plumbing fixtures of all kinds. Besides his local business, he contracts for work in all parts of Nemaha and Marshall counties. He has contracted for work for the United States Government in different parts of the country. The success of Mr. Hybskmann is all the more remarkable when it is known that he started with no capital. Such instances of the rise of men are not as common as they should be, and it is very much to the credit of Mr. Hybskmann that he should have made a striking success.

He was married, in 1903, to Hilma J. Olston, and to this union three children were born, namely: Ralph O.; Lloyd A., and Lavon A. His wife was born in Iowa, July 14, 1877. She is the daughter of J. F. Olston, who later was a farmer and business man of Axtell, Kans.

Mr. Hybskmann is an independent Democrat, and always takes an interest in governmental affairs. He naturally inclines toward the Democratic party, but before casting his ballot, he looks to the man, and will vote for a good man regardless of his party label. Though he is not a church member, he attends the Methodist church, and contributes to its support. He is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

**James P. Mooney.**—The late James P. Mooney of Centralia, Kans., was a man of good parts, industrious and reliable, who was well respected by all who knew him during his residence in Centralia. Mr. Mooney was born on a farm near Georgetown, Brown county, Ohio, June 7, 1826. He followed the occupation of farmer and stockman in his native State until 1875, and then moved to Illinois where he resided for eight years. In 1883, he migrated to Centralia, Kans., and engaged in the meat market and mercantile business until failing health compelled him to cease his work. He died September 15, 1906, from the effects of a fall.

He was first married in Illinois to America Prague, who died, leaving one child. In 1888, he was married to Mrs. Emaline Pettibone.

The children surviving Mr. Mooney are as follows: Jonas A., Centralia, Kans.; Mrs. Mary A. Devore, Ripley, Ohio; J. Wilson of Onaga, Kans.; William, living at Manson, Mont.; Mrs. Nellie Durland, living at LaGrande, Ore. Mrs. Emaline Mooney, his widow, was born in Indiana, September 15, 1833 and is a daughter of Leonard H. and Eliza (Denny) Scott who were natives of Virginia and Indiana respectively. Emaline Scott was first married to Henry Pettibone. The children of Henry Pettibone are as follows: Mrs. Alice Swan, Centralia, Kans.; Mrs. Emma Cunningham, deceased at Centralia, Kans.; Eliza, Josephine, and Loren, deceased. Mrs. Mooney is owner of 320 acres of farm land in section 35 of Home township, and also owns property in Centralia.

James P. Mooney united with the Presbyterian church at an early age, but became affiliated with the Congregational Church of Centralia, and was an earnest worker of that denomination.

**Frank Melcher**, of Richmond township, was born on the farm which he now owns, November 8, 1883. He is a son of Fred W. and Bernedina (Cathman) Melcher, who were the parents of the following children: Josephine, wife of A. Henry of Kempler, Kans.; Fred J., living in Nemaha county, and Frank, of whom this review treats. Fred W. Melcher, his father, was born in Oldenberg, Germany, May 9, 1844, and left his native land in 1882 to immigrate to the United States. He located in Nemaha county, Kansas, and purchased 120 acres of land in section 16 of Richmond township at a cost of \$3,000. Mr. Melcher prospered in Nemaha county, and at the time of his death on March 19, 1904, he was owner of 320 acres. His wife, Bernedina, was born December 4, 1838, and died April 30, 1909.

Frank Melcher grew up on his father's farm and attended public school, and also attended the parochial school at St. Benedict's. When his father died, he became owner of a quarter section of land, which he improved in 1912 with a splendid farm residence. The Melcher residence consists of eight rooms and is two stories in height, and was erected at a cost of \$4,000. Many other substantial improvements have been added to his farm by Mr. Melcher.

Mr. Melcher was married, in 1908, to Magdalena L. Bergmann, who was born on a farm in Clear Creek township, March 5, 1886, and is a daughter of Bernard Bergmann, whose biography is recorded in this volume. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Melcher, as follows: Vernis, born April 14, 1911; Melita, born December 3, 1913; three children died in infancy; the youngest child is Francis A., born March 7, 1916.

Mr. Melcher takes an active interest in the public affairs of his township, and is an independent in politics, generally voting his convictions regardless of party lines. He is a member of the Catholic church, and is affiliated with the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association.

**Daniel J. Firstenberger**, clothing merchant, Seneca, Kans., was born in Germany, September 30, 1845, and was a son of Christopher and Barbara Firstenberger, who immigrated to the United States in 1847, and settled at Galion, Ohio. Mr. Firstenberger was educated in the public schools of Galion, and was apprenticed to the trade of shoemaker when a boy. Some time later, he secured a position in a dry goods store, and developed into a splendid salesman. In line with his ambition to own a business of his own, he mastered the intricacies of buying and selling goods, and when he was twenty-eight years old, he was ready to engage in business for himself. He came to Seneca, Kans., in the spring of 1873, and purchased the interest of A. Wells in the firm of Murphy & Wells. This interest included a part ownership in the store building as well as the stock of goods. For a period of six weeks after making his investment, Mr. Firstenberger was very ill. Upon recovering from his illness, he became active in the firm. A few years later, Henry C. Buchanan bought Mr. Murphy's interest, and this partnership continued until W. S. Tucker purchased Buchanan's interest. The firm was operated under the name of Firstenberger & Tucker for a few years until Mr. Firstenberger purchased Mr. Tucker's interest, and became sole owner of the store, which he is now conducting.

Mr. Firstenberger was married to Miss Olive Leatherbury, October 22, 1868, and this union has been blessed with three children, as follows: William, clothing merchant and postmaster at Kansas City, Kans.; Iscah M., wife of Benton T. Hart, station agent at Summerfield, Kans.; Fries, a machinist at Kansas City, Kans. Mrs. Firstenberger was born in Marion county, Ohio, in July, 1851, and is a daughter of Noah, born 1809, died 1889, and Mary Ann (Fries) Leatherbury, natives of Maryland and Pennsylvania respectively. Noah Leatherbury migrated to Kansas in 1869, and located in Seneca, where he engaged in the oil business, controlling the State rights for the sale of "Danforth Fluid" (now common gasoline). He sold all of his county rights but that of Nemaha county. There were four children in the Leatherbury family, as follows: Sanford B., died March, 1915; Mrs. Elizabeth Pettit, lives at Du Bois, Neb.; Philo F., died in Oklahoma, and Mrs. Olive Firstenberger. The mother of these children died in 1895 at the age of eighty-three years. Sanford B. Leatherbury settled on a homestead on the Kansas-Nebraska line as early as 1857. Two uncles of Mrs. Firstenberger, John and Joseph Fries, migrated to Kansas from Marion, Ohio, via the ox team route and settled in Nemaha county as early as 1856. John Fries was a mill wright and built the first steam gristmill over the State line in Nebraska. He later erected a water power mill, which is still standing, one and a half miles over the State line in Nebraska. Christopher Firstenberger was a soldier in the Eighty-first Ohio infantry and died in 1868. His wife died at Galion, Ohio, in 1891.

Mr. and Mrs. Firstenberger are members of the Congregational

church. Mr. Firstenberger is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Knights Templars and Mystic Shriners, and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks lodge, No. 40, of St. Joseph, Mo. He is a Democrat, and has served as a member of the Seneca School Board for sixteen years.

**Benjamin D. Graham**, retired, Seneca, Kans., was born in Buffalo, N. Y., October 16, 1845, and is a son of Rev. Curtis and Amy (Fish) Graham, who were the parents of eight children, as follows: Timothy, born in 1842, a retired railroad engineer, living at Salida, Colo., and who was a member of the First Cavalry regiment of Colorado during the Civil war; George, born in 1843, former member of the Seventh Kansas Cavalry regiment during the Civil war, now living at Hill City, Kans.; Benjamin D., subject of this review; Mrs. Esther Carson, born November 16, 1847, and lives in Montana; Edward, born in 1852, a bridge builder in Colorado; Mrs. Mary Bennett, a widow living at Brooklyn, N. Y., and born in 1849; Mrs. Sarah Jane Fowler, born in 1855, living at Los Angeles, Cal., and Curtis, a railroad engineer at Stillwell, Okla.

Curtis Graham, father of Benjamin D., came to Kansas in 1856 with a body of 300 "Free State" men, who intended to locate permanently in Kansas. Mr. Graham preempted 120 acres of Government land in the southwestern part of Doniphan county, and also bought forty acres, for which he paid \$2.50 an acre. His family lived in the Indian Mission building while their house was being built. For a number of years he preached as circuit rider at Doniphan, Atchison, Valley Falls, Kans., and other points, going to his charges on horseback. In 1860, Mr. Graham was sent East to solicit aid for the drouth sufferers in Kansas. He was a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church and was a speaker of eloquence and power on the platform and in the pulpit. Rev. Graham was elected a member of the State legislature from Doniphan county and cast the deciding vote which elected Pomeroy to the United States senate. He was a warm friend of Jim Lane. Dr. Curtis Graham was born April 5, 1809, and died at Brooklyn, N. Y., in 1907. When his wife died he returned to the East, where he resided and preached the Gospel until his death. His wife was born in New York, July 27, 1820, and died November 8, 1861.

Benjamin D. Graham came to Kansas with his parents and attended Highland University at Highland, Kans., in order to complete his education. He enlisted in April, 1862, in Company H, Eighty-sixth New York infantry, and was mustered out of the service as first lieutenant of his company in April, 1866. He saw hard fighting at the battles of Chancellorsville and Fredericksburg, and was engaged in many skirmishes. After his war service he engaged in the grocery business at Brooklyn, N. Y., for two years and was married there in the meantime. He taught school for one year and then came to Nemaha county, Kansas, where he took up a homestead near Baileyville. He farmed his land for two years and then engaged in mercantile business at Seneca. He continued in business for six years and was appointed deputy county treas-

urer. He next served as deputy county recorder of deeds, serving four years as a deputy county official. While a resident of Marion township he organized the township and served as township assessor, making the first set of books for the township. Mr. Graham is city assessor of Seneca.

He was married at Brooklyn, N. Y., March 30, 1867, to Josephine B. Tasker. There were born to this marriage the following children: William R., born June 6, 1870, former county treasurer and now a real estate man in Kansas City, Mo.; Arthur T., born August 10, 1872, is superintendent of the Missouri Pacific roundhouse at Virginia, Neb.; Mrs. Maud Funk, born November 2, 1877, lives near Oneida; Mrs. Nina Bell, born June 20, 1886, lives at Ogden, Utah; Ida E., born in 1868, deceased; Linda, born in 1874, deceased; Florence, born July 7, 1875, deceased; Darwin B., born December 6, 1879, deceased; Roy, born June 2, 1884, deceased. The mother of these children, Josephine Bonaparte (Tasker) Graham, was born December 2, 1849, at Brooklyn, N. Y., and was a lineal descendant of Empress Josephine. Mrs. Graham died August 1, 1915.

Mr. Graham is a Democrat in politics. He is a member and one of the organizers of the George Graham Post, No. 92, Grand Army of the Republic.

**Howard Thompson**, farmer and stockman, lawyer, journalist and versatile American, comes of one of the old families of this country. On his mother's side he is descended from General Braddock, of French and Indian war fame. Mr. Thompson has had a versatile record, which has embraced the vocation of journalist, lawyer, printer and agriculturist, in all of which he has been successful. Realizing that the farm offers the best and most substantial rewards for the specialist and an energetic individual, he decided to become a farmer—a vocation in which he has achieved a flattering success.

Howard Thompson was born in Warren county, Ohio, July 7, 1864, and is a son of Samuel and Martha J. (Braddock) Thompson, to whom were born two sons and three daughters, namely: Charles, who became a machinist and is deceased; Laura M., wife of Judge Rufus M. Emery, Seneca, Kans.; Elva, wife of A. R. Drew, living in Wyoming; Howard, with whom this review is directly concerned; Mrs. Caroline Matthews, Seneca, Kans.

Samuel Thompson was born in Pennsylvania in 1821, and was a son of David and Lucy (Ridge) Thompson, both of whom were born in New Jersey. David Thompson was a farmer, who moved to Ohio in the pioneer days of the settlement of that State, and there reared his family. Samuel was reared in Warren county, Ohio, and learned the wagon maker's trade, which he followed for several years in his native State. In 1883, he migrated to Kansas and located in Seneca and opened a wagon and carriage making shop, which he conducted until blindness overtook him and compelled his retirement. Death followed soon after his retirement and he departed this life in 1910.



HOWARD THOMPSON, MRS. LYDIA M. THOMPSON, RICHARD S. THOMPSON,  
MRS. INEZ ROBERTSON.  
THOMPSON FARM RESIDENCE.





In the old days of Ohio it was the practice of Samuel Thompson to go directly to the forest for his wagon and carriage material. He cut down the trees, hewed the logs and eventually, by dint of much labor and skill, the finished product would emerge from under his handiwork in the form of a strong wagon or carriage.

Samuel Thompson was twice married, his first wife being the mother of two sons, as follows: William, living in Cincinnati, Ohio; Francis M., killed while following his trade of painter and decorator at Seattle, Wash. He fell from a church steeple, which he was painting, and subsequently died from the injuries which he received. He was an artist and frescoer of ability and genius. Mrs. Martha J. (Braddock) Thompson, the second wife of Samuel Thompson, and mother of Howard Thompson, was born in Philadelphia, Pa., December 6, 1836, and was a daughter of Charles and Maria (Stewart) Braddock, whose ancestry traces back through several generations and claims Gen. J. C. Braddock as a member of the family. Mrs. Thompson resides in Seneca.

Howard Thompson was fourteen years of age when he settled in Nemaha county in April, 1879. He attended the Seneca public school one winter while making his home with Judge R. M. Emery. In 1881 he removed to Iliawatha, Kans., and became a member of the staff of the "Kansas Herald," remaining there until 1883. He then took up the study of law in the office of Judge Emery and was admitted to the bar in March, 1887. He practiced law in partnership with Judge Emery until 1890. During nine months of this time, however, he edited the "Courier-Democrat" in Seneca. In 1890 he went west to Denver, Colo., and worked at the printer's trade at Denver and Colorado Springs, Pueblo and Canon City until November, 1891. Then he returned to Kansas City and served as printer in that city and as a legislative clerk of the State Assembly at Topeka. From Topeka he went South and worked as a journeyman printer in Texas and Arkansas for some time. He then returned to Seneca and resumed his law practice until 1895, when he took charge of a quarter section of his father-in-law's land, which is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Thompson. The Thompson farm consists of 200 acres of land in Richmond township and 160 acres of land in Graham county. The land in Graham county has been sold recently, however, and in 1914 Mr. and Mrs. Thompson erected a large eight-room mansion at a cost of over \$6,000. This beautiful residence is two stories in height, with a basement, fitted with water plant, sewerage, acetylene lights, and all conveniences and is finished throughout with the most beautiful hardwood.

The barn on this place has been built for forty years and was erected with white pine lumber, painted red, and is in first class condition. When Richard Johnson built his barn and the floor was all laid, invitations were sent out to all the countryside for the people to come to a big barn dance. Over 400 people attended, and a general good time was had by everybody. Mr. Thompson is a breeder of Ayrshire cattle and is meeting with success in this special line.

Mr. Thompson was married to Miss Lydia M. Johnson, December 30, 1886, and to this union have been born three children, as follows: Mrs. Inez Robertson, Kansas City, Mo., mother of one child, Beryl; Richard S., born April 19, 1890. One child died in infancy. Mrs. Robertson was born December 6, 1887, and graduated from Seneca High School. Mrs. Thompson was born on a farm in Nemaha township, February 6, 1867, and is a daughter of Richard Johnson, deceased. (See biography of Irwin Johnson for data concerning the Johnson family).

Mr. Thompson is a Progressive in politics, and served as secretary of the Seneca Board of Education, and for the past twelve years has been secretary of school district No. 15, Richmond township.

**Christian H. Steinmeir.**—Those veterans who fought through the dark years of the early sixties, are passing away one by one. Before many years, the men who risked their lives to save the Union will not be living to tell the story of those terrible years. Christian H. Steinmeir, hale and hearty in his old age, retains clear and vivid memories of many interesting incidents of the Civil war in which he fought. He campaigned through cold winters and hot summers, marching all day long, and dug entrenchments at night or walking solitary picket duty.

At the time of the opening of the war, Mr. Steinmeir was twenty years old, having been born June 21, 1841, in Hancock county, Indiana. To his parents, Christ and Christena (Schildmeir) Steinmeir, four children were born. By a later marriage, the father became the parent of another child. Mr. Steinmeir comes of pure old German stock, his father having been born in Prussia, in the German Empire, about 1820. Leaving Germany at the age of thirteen, Christ and his father came to America, settling in Hancock county, Indiana, to engage in farming. One day, he became interested in Mexico, and leaving his wife and family, set out for old Mexico with a couple of thoroughbred horses in 1885. While in old Mexico, he sold the horses, receiving payment in gold, but was killed and robbed, shortly afterward, by ruffians near Monterey.

The mother of Christian Steinmeir came to America at the age of thirteen years and settled in Hancock county, Indiana. She died in 1852, at the age of twenty-eight years. By a second marriage, Christ became the father of one child, Sophia, who grew to womanhood and married a Mr. Richmond.

Christian Steinmeir was reared in Hancock county, Indiana, and attended school there and worked on his father's farm. Christian went regularly to school until the first call for volunteers was sent out by President Lincoln, July 20, 1861. Christian rose to the first call for 300,000 men and offered himself to his country. His father, though born under another flag, was a loyal citizen and approved heartily of his son's patriotism, and though Christian was only a mere lad of twenty, his father consented to his going to war. He enlisted in Company F, Eleventh Indiana infantry, and after preliminary drilling, his company

was rushed to the front and put into action at the historic battle of Fort Donelson, in Tennessee. He was under the command of Gen. Lew Wallace, then colonel of the Eleventh regiment, and fought bravely in this battle, which was the first real victory for the North. During the fighting he was struck on the small of the back with a piece of shell, but fortunately was only slightly injured, and after a short time in the camp hospital he was back on the firing line. Soon the regiment moved on to Shiloh, where the Confederate forces were again defeated. On the raid between Hollow Springs and Jackson, Miss., lighter fighting took place and the invaders succeeded in tearing up the railroad tracks and destroying the lines of communication between the two points. They were forced to cross the Mississippi river below Grand Gulf, April 30, 1863. The night before the next battle they marched until 11 o'clock, when they were fired upon, and after a short skirmish, they rested until daybreak, when the battle proper took place at Fort Gibson, when Christian's company was under the general command of General Hovey, with Gen. John McLernon as corps commander. May 16, 1863, General Grant moved on Pemberton's forces at Champion Hills, and after a bitter fight, in which forty per cent. of the Indiana soldiers were lost, the North was victorious. He went through the siege of Vicksburg, when Grant hemmed General Pemberton in the city, and Pemberton surrendered. For some time his command was guarding the Red river country. The Eastern campaign began under the direction of General Grant, and Christian's company went from New Orleans to Virginia, and were stationed at Washington, D. C., and Harper's Ferry and marched through the Shenandoah valley. After fighting his last battle at Halltown, Va., in 1864, his service was over and he was mustered out at Harper's Ferry, September 8, 1864.

In October, 1864, he came to Nemaha county, Kansas, arriving at his father's farm., three and a half miles north of Seneca, by way of the old Atchison stage coach line. The previous spring his father and two sons had come to the locality. They farmed together for some time. The Western land had to be broken up and put in shape for cultivation, and improvements were badly needed. Christian set himself to accomplishing these, working just as hard and faithfully as he could. True to his German instinct for thrift and industry, he farmed steadily until 1909, when he retired. At the present time a large and excellent farm of 400 acres, two city lots and a fine residence attest his thrifty career.

He was married to Christena H. Koch, at the Koch home, near St. Benedict, Kans., in 1867. Mrs. Steinmeir was born in Germany, August 17, 1848, and was a daughter of John and Mary Koch, who settled in Wisconsin after coming to America. In 1857 the Koch family moved to Nemaha county, Kansas.

Eleven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Steinmeir, as follows: Mrs. Anna Burger, Nemaha county, Kansas; Benjamin, deceased; John, deceased; William, a carpenter for the Grand Island rail-

road; Edward, deceased; Christian, farmer, Nemaha county, Kansas; Walter, deceased; Louis, farmer, Nemaha county; George, Nemaha county; Mrs. Mary Fuller, Seneca, Kans; Esther, living at home.

Mr. Steinmeir is an independent politically and votes according to the dictates of his conscience. He has held minor offices, and has been a member of the school board. He was reared in the Lutheran faith and still retains his affiliation and regard for that creed. Very naturally, he is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and takes delight in rehearsing the momentous events of the great war with his old comrades. He has never been a party to a lawsuit during his long life.

**Ira Holsapple**, prosperous farmer of Illinois township, was born on a pioneer farm in Holt county, Missouri, November 21, 1863. He is a son of Andrew L. and Anna (Higginbottom) Holsapple, who were parents of ten children, seven of whom are living. Andrew L. Holsapple was born in West Virginia (then Old Virginia), July 4, 1825, and was a son of John Holsapple, who was born in New York State, and was a son of Philip Holsapple, a native of Germany. John Holsapple married Miss Virginia Campbell, whose parents were natives of Scotland. John Holsapple was a soldier in the War of 1812. A report from the adjutant general's office in the United States War Department gives the following record of John Holsapple: "The records of this office show that one John Holsapple served in the War of 1812 as an ensign in Lieut. James Steel's company of infantry, Fifth Virginia Militia, from September 13 to October 9, 1813, and in Capt. Julian Magagnos' company of infantry of the line, same regiment, from October 8, 1813, to March 10, 1814. This regiment is shown to have been stationed at Norfolk, Va.

"The records also show that one John Holsapple served in said war as a private in Capt. Benjamin Lesher's company of infantry First (Kennedy's) regiment Pennsylvania militia, from September 3 to December 5, 1814. His residence is shown to have been in Lebanon county, the place of rendezvous at York, and he is shown to have been discharged at Baltimore.

"It is further shown that one John Holsapple served in the war mentioned as a private and corporal in Capt. Solomon Taylor's company of infantry, from Greenbrier county, also known as Capt. James Robinson's company, Second (Evans') regiment Virginia militia, from September 19, 1812, to April 1, 1813.—Adjutant General's Office, War Department, February 25, 1916. H. T. McLain, the Adjutant General."

Ira Holsapple's mother was born in Monroe county, Virginia, July 4, 1827, and died June 19, 1908. Andrew Holsapple came to Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1885, and farmed in Illinois township until his demise, which occurred December 19, 1899. He was a true pioneer and drove from his old home in Virginia to Missouri in a covered wagon and repeated this method of overland transportation when he moved to Nemaha county, Kansas.

When the Mexican war began, in 1848, Andrew Holsapple assisted

in organizing a company of Virginia militia for service against Mexico and was elected captain of the company. This company, however, was not called upon for active service during the war. While Mr. Holsapple was a resident of Holt county, Missouri, he was drafted into the Union army, and while at St. Joseph, Mo., waiting to be mustered into the Union service, he was discharged and sent home. He was a miller and a farmer in Virginia.

The children of Andrew Holsapple are as follows: John C. and Andrew Nelson, deceased; Jennie, wife of Charles Payne, Corning, Kans.; Mrs. Helen Hitchcock, Nodaway county, Missouri; Mrs. Lucy Payne, Corning, Kans.; Ira A. and George; William O., Oakwood, Okla.; Lewis T., Putnam, Okla., and James, deceased.

Ira and George Holsapple came into possession of the Holsapple estate, consisting of a quarter section of land, upon the death of their mother. Ira Holsapple makes his home upon the Irwin home place of 160 acres, the southeast quarter of section 8. He maintains a grade herd of Shorthorn cattle and keeps Duroc Jersey swine. He is also owner of the northeast quarter of section 28 in Illinois township, upon which he has made excellent improvements from time to time.

Mr. Holsapple was married in 1908 to Miss Elsie Irwin, who was born in Illinois township, in December, 1868, and is a daughter of John Irwin, a Kansas pioneer. John Irwin was born in Orange county, N. Y., April 26, 1843, and moved to Michigan with his parents in 1847. He enlisted in 1862 as a member of the Sixth Michigan Cavalry regiment and served with the Army of the Potomac. He fought in the Shenandoah and the trans-Mississippi campaigns under Generals Custer, Kilpatrick, Muret and Sheridan, and was in thirty-six general engagements, among them being Winchester, Cedar Creek and Appomattox. His command crossed the plains in order to assist in quelling an Indian uprising and passed through Seneca, Kans., in July, 1865. He received his final discharge from the service at Ft. Leavenworth, November, 1865. Mr. Irwin came to Centralia, Kans., in December, 1865, and bought the southeast quarter of section 8, in Illinois township. Since that time he has fought drouth, grasshoppers, and other evils, but still loves Nemaha county and Kansas.

Mr. Irwin was married to Priscilla Sams, who was born September 14, 1842, and died May 1, 1913. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Irwin: Mrs. Elsie R. Holsapple; Mrs. Leora Pierce, Centralia, Kans.; James, a journalist, deceased; Prue M. Williams, Lincoln, Neb. Mr. Irwin is a Democrat and a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and is religiously affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Holsapple is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Modern Woodmen. He and Mrs. Holsapple are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mrs. Holsapple is affiliated with the Order of Eastern Star.

**Posey W. Cox.**—There must be considerable satisfaction in having lived a half century and more on the plains of Kansas and seen a great State and empire in the making; this satisfaction must be doubly great to the mind of the real, old settler, who has reared his family in the midst of this empire building and taken an active and important part in the making of a great county such as Nemaha. Many of the Kansas pioneers were of the good old Buckeye stock, in whose veins flow the best of American blood, and who were natural frontiersmen ever seeking the better and richer lands just beyond where they were born and reared. Eighty years ago, or even more, the father of Posey W. Cox, Nemaha county pioneer, left his Ohio home and made a settlement in Buchanan county, Missouri, at a time when there were but few settlers in that county. He probably settled in that section of Missouri some years before the great influx of Southern emigrants from Kentucky and the Virginias came to make permanent homes in Buchanan county and brought along their human chattels to till the fields in the new country. It is evident that the elder Cox's sympathies were strictly of the anti-slavery order, because we find that during the second year of the Civil war he removed across the Big Muddy to Doniphan county, and his son, Posey, joined the Union army and fought in defense of the Union.

John H. Cox, father of Posey W., was born in Ohio, in 1811, and became a carpenter and mechanic in his younger days. He was a cabinet maker and a millwright, familiar with the building of water mills. He farmed in a desultory sort of way, but left the greater part of the farm work to his family even after coming to Missouri and later to Kansas.

In Indiana he married Elizabeth Waymire, also descended from old American stock, and who bore him a family of seven children, as follows: Rhoda, deceased wife of August Kennedy; Helen M., wife of Isaac Jones, killed by bushwhackers or Southern sympathizers at Independence, Mo.; Posey W., with whose life career this review is directly involved; Taylor, a soldier in the Forty-fourth Missouri infantry regiment, enlisted in 1864, was wounded at Franklin, and died in the Union service; Mary E., wife of Ellis Smith, died at St. Joseph, Mo.; Mirza N. Denver, Colo. During the early thirties, John H. Cox left Ohio and after a stay in Indiana sought a home in Buchanan county, Missouri. He preempted land and proceeded to develop a farm. As settlers came into the county, his services as carpenter were constantly in demand and, of necessity, the clearing and tilling of the Cox homestead were left to the mother and growing children. As the years passed the impending struggle between the North and South over the question of slavery came on and the situation became more and more acute. The Civil war broke out and the Cox family were in great danger from the marauding bands of bushwhackers who infested Missouri at this time. Although Mr. Cox was unable to enlist in the Union armies, he outfitted a neighbor's son with a horse and full equipment and in various other ways showed his loyalty to the Union. The elder Cox deemed it expedient to remove his family across the Missouri river to Doniphan county, Kansas. This he accomplished in 1862. During that same year he built a grist mill operated by

water power at Wathena and placed it in operation. He conducted this mill until his death in 1866. His wife, and mother of his children, was born in 1824, in Indiana, and died in Nemaha county, December 6, 1899. After the death of Mr. Cox she was twice married.

Posey W. Cox was reared to young manhood in Missouri and Doniphan county, Kansas, and grew up to be a sturdy, self-reliant man, inured to hardships and made strong by the outdoor life of the pioneer days. In the spring of 1862 he enrolled in the Kansas State militia for service within the borders of the State, and in September, 1863, he joined Company B, Twelfth Missouri regiment of cavalry, and saw much active service in the Union armies of the Southland. His first battle was in Mississippi. The cavalry detachment with which he was connected was constantly on the move, and he took part in many skirmishes and engagements. He was wounded at the battle of Nashville, Tenn., December 14, 1864, and received a bad gunshot wound in the left leg; at Campbellsburg, Tenn., a few days later, the same leg was run through with a saber in the hands of an adversary. Some time later he fought in the battle of Franklin, Tenn. During 1864, his command, under Colonel Wells, was sent out and was constantly in the saddle for sixty days and nights of continuous fighting and skirmishing, which called for forced marches. In the spring of 1865, his command was ordered north, and in June, 1865, they marched from Ft. Leavenworth with a full new outfit. After a month's stay at Omaha, they left that city on September 15 after the rebellious Indians, and participated in the great Powder River Indian battle. This campaign was filled with hardships for the soldiers, who were compelled to go without adequate shoes or clothing while in the far West away from their base of supplies. Mr. Cox cut up saddle strips with which to make boot coverings, and he received no clothing until the army reached Ft. Reno.

At the close of his army service he returned to Wathena, Kans., April 16, 1866, and took charge of the water mill which his father had built. In July, 1867, his first marriage occurred with Miss Mary Wells, who was born in Doniphan county, Kansas, in 1845, and died in 1868, leaving a son, John H. Cox, now living at Hoyt, Kans. After his wife's death, Mr. Cox went to Utah and hewed railroad ties for railroad construction work for some time, and after his return to Kansas he engaged in the same occupation at a point twelve miles west of Kansas City, Mo., in the timber. In 1870 he walked the entire distance of forty miles from Hamlin to Seneca, Kans., and started working in the timber north of Seneca. He also worked as farm hand during the same summer. In the spring of 1871 he rented land on Harris creek from Mrs. Priscilla Clancy. For a time he lived at the home of his mother-in-law and worked at different jobs. He rented land for about seven years and in 1886 he bought his present farm, which was undeveloped prairie land at that time. Mr. Cox has a total of 117 acres, eighty acres of which are in section 34, Washington township, and thirty-seven acres in Gilman township. Mr.



Cox and his son Eli are breeders of Duroc Jersey swine, but of late years Mr. Cox has turned the management of his farm over to his son and is living a retired life.

His second marriage occurred with Mary F. Williams, December 17, 1871. Four children have blessed this marriage, namely: Mrs. Eva Bird, Bern, Kans. (see biography); Eli, born February 7, 1875, now farming the home place; Emery W., born September 26, 1880, a mechanic at Bern, Kans.; one child died in infancy. Mrs. Cox was born March 10, 1846, near Jefferson City, Mo., and is a daughter of Eli and Eliza (English) Williams, Kansas pioneers (see sketch of George W. Williams, of Oneida).

Mr. Cox is allied with the Republican party, and has held local offices, such as road supervisor and member of the school board. In his way he has been active in civic and political affairs in the years past and has always done his duty as a loyal American citizen. He and Mrs. Cox are members of the Christian church and have led exemplary and upright lives which have endeared them to a host of friends in Nemaha county. Mr. Cox is a member of the Grand Army Post at Seneca.

**Dr. Burton Conrad**, veterinarian, Sabetha, Kans., is one of the highly successful practitioners of northeast Kansas and a well known leader of his difficult profession. Dr. Conrad was born on a farm in Capioma township, Nemaha county, September 11, 1875, and is a son of George W. and Lurania Conrad. George W. Conrad, Sr., was born in Rome, N. Y., in 1841, and was a son of German-born parents. His father was Wesley Conrad. George W. was reared to young manhood in New York and immigrated to Illinois in 1861. He was there married to Miss Lurania Rawson. Mr. Conrad enlisted for service in the Union army in the Twenty-eighth Illinois infantry regiment, and served until the close of the Civil war. He participated in the following battles: Sabine Cross Roads, Gettysburg, Appomattox Court House, and was present at the fall of Richmond and witnessed General Lee's surrender. He moved to a farm near Grinnel in 1866 and in 1868 he immigrated to Nemaha county, Kansas, purchasing 240 acres of land in Capioma township, which he tilled until his removal to Sabetha in 1879. He operated a general store and grain business at Sabetha and took an active part in city affairs. He was a member of the Sabetha Fair Association and was one of the builders of Grand Army Hall. He was engaged in business for two years and then returned to the farm and remained there until his removal to Tacoma, Wash., from which city he moved to Dover, Okla. Mr. Conrad served as a member of the State legislature in 1887, having been elected to the office in 1886. His wife, Lurania Rawson, was born at Nadick, Mass., in 1842, and was a daughter of Caleb and Lurania Rawson, whose ancestry traces back to the earliest colonial families of New England. Caleb Rawson was a gardener and horticulturist who moved to Illinois, thence to Iowa, and from there to Kansas in 1871. He owned a farm six miles southwest of Sabetha, which he tilled for some years, and later



moved to a tract of fifty-three acres in the northwest part of the city. He turned his attention to market gardening and horticulture. Mrs. Conrad is a bright, intelligent woman, who has been a good and true mother to her children.

Dr. Burton Conrad received his primary education in district school No. 25, and the Sabetha High School, where he studied for three years prior to entering the State Agricultural College at Manhattan, Kans. He graduated from the State Agricultural College in 1895. He began studying at the Kansas City Veterinary College in 1903 and obtained his degree as veterinarian in 1905. He at once began practice at Sabetha and has been very successful. Dr. Conrad played football for sixteen years and served as captain of the Manhattan team for two years.

He was married July 25, 1895, to Miss Nertha Anora Steele, born October 30, 1875, at Clinton, Mo. Mrs. Conrad is a daughter of Jefferson and Sarah (Ford) Steele, natives of Missouri, who came to Kansas in 1884 and settled in Ottawa county. Mr. Steele now resides at Minneapolis, Kans., and Mrs. Steele is deceased. Three children have been born to Dr. and Mrs. Conrad, as follows: Melba and Leila, graduates of the Sabetha High School, and Florence, member of the junior high school class. Mrs. Conrad completed a course in domestic science at the Manhattan College. It is interesting to note that her grandfather on her mother's side was Boaz Ford, born in Illinois in 1826, and now residing at Trenton, Mo. He married Elinor Thorpe, who was born in Illinois in 1831. Boaz Ford is a fifth cousin of Henry Ford, of the Ford Motor Car Company.

Dr. Conrad has achieved a considerable measure of success of a substantial and enduring nature in the practice of his profession. He was elected president of the Kansas State Veterinary Association in 1915. Dr. Conrad is a registered veterinarian under the State laws of Kansas, and it is a fact that there are few veterinarians in active practice who are registered under the State law providing for registration. He was one of the promoters in the establishment of the hog cholera prevention movement, which led to the placing of a preventive serum station in Nemaha county. He is a delegate to the State conventions of veterinarians and has frequently contributed articles which have been published in the "Veterinary Journal." Dr. Conrad is a member of the Knights and Ladies of Security and is serving his second year as president of the local lodge. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen and is a Republican in politics.

**James L. Barnes**, real estate dealer at Goff, Kans., was born on a farm in Granada township, September 17, 1876, and is a son of James O. and Ellen E. (Walters) Barnes, who were early pioneer settlers in Nemaha county. James O. Barnes, his father, was born in Meigs county, Ohio, March 10, 1841, and was a son of James O. and Mary Ann Barnes, natives of Scotland. James O. Barnes, grandfather of the subject, was born March 10, 1812, and died April 9, 1873. His wife, Mary Ann, was

born August 15, 1815, and died November 8, 1875. The Barnes family were early settlers in Meigs county, Ohio, and were among the earliest pioneers in Kansas.

James O. Barnes homesteaded land in section 20, Granada township, in 1858, and it is a matter of local history that he walked from Leavenworth, Kans., to his new location in this township. He built a log cabin and broke up the virgin soil with oxen. When the Civil war began, he enlisted in the Eighth Kansas infantry regiment, and saw much active service on the Southern battlefields in the Union armies. He was wounded in the hip at the great battle of Chickamauga. He received his honorable discharge from the service at the close of the war in 1865 and returned to his homestead in Nemaha county. He farmed his land until his retirement in 1896. He died at Goff, Kans., June 22, 1906. James O. and Ellen E. Barnes were parents of the following children: Joseph J., Oklahoma City, Okla.; Huldah, born in 1869, and died same year; Mrs. Sarah Anne Monkres, Shawnee, Okla.; Philip, born in 1872, died in 1916, at Drumright, Okla., where he met death in a gas explosion; Alfred, Red Rock, Okla.; James L., subject of this review; Nellie, born in 1882, died in 1889. The mother of the foregoing children was born in Barry county, Missouri, October 27, 1842, and died at Goff, Kans., December 20, 1894.

James L. Barnes was reared to manhood in Nemaha county and took up farming after spending his boyhood days on his father's farm in Granada township. He was educated in the district schools of his native township.

Upon his removal to Goff, Kans., he engaged in the real estate business and has been very successful. Mr. Barnes is an extensive land owner and a wide-awake, energetic citizen, who has been active in the affairs of his home city and county. He is a director of the First National Bank of Goff. While a resident of Marshall county, Kansas, he served two terms as county clerk of that county from 1906 to 1910.

Mr. Barnes was married to Miss Sarah Ann Berridge, September 17, 1900, at Goff, Kans. Mr. and Mrs. Barnes have children as follows: Raymond Kennedy, born November 14, 1903; James Leander, born January 6, 1909. Mrs. Barnes was born at Netawaka, Kans., June 30, 1875, and is a daughter of Henry and Annie E. (Hopkins) Berridge, the former of whom was born in Ohio, September 23, 1854, and the latter was born in Wales, May 9, 1854. Mr. and Mrs. Berridge are parents of the following children: William, deceased; Sarah Ann, Samuel, Jennie, Margaret and Edna.

Mr. Barnes is a member of the Republican party and is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Blue Rapids, Kans., and is a member of the Scottish Rite Masons at Topeka, Kans.

**Augustus F. Gabbert**, owner of a fine farm of 160 acres in Reilly township, is a son of Adolph J. and Louisa (Keeter) Gabbert, concerning whose biography the reader is referred to a sketch which appears

elsewhere in this volume. Mr. Gabbert was born in Réilly township, March 3, 1868, and was reared on his father's farm, receiving a district school education. When twenty-one years old he rented his father's farm for a year, then went to Kansas City, Mo., where he was employed as engineer with the firm of Nickels & Sheppard for two years. His father then gave him eighty acres, which he farmed for three years and then bought another eighty. In addition to conducting his farming operations, Mr. Gabbert has the agency for the Buick automobiles. He has been selling Buick cars for the past seven years and has placed many cars in his territory during that time.

Mr. Gabbert was married in 1896 to Josephine Wilcox, who was born in Jackson county, Kans., March 8, 1878, and is a daughter of William T. and Sarah (Timmons) Wilcox (see sketch). She was a member of the first class to graduate from the Goff High School, in 1895. Mr. and Mrs. Gabbert have three children, namely: Kenneth Eugene, born August 11, 1896, at present on the Mexican border on duty with Company M of the Idaho State militia, squads 1 and 2, Idaho National Guard, infantry regiment. He is a graduate of the Bancroft and Wetmore schools and studied in Kansas University for a year, at Lawrence, and taught school one year. The second child was Floyd Burdel, born May 3, 1898, and died August 25, 1899. Bernetta Irene, the third child, was born February 19, 1900, and is a student in the Bancroft High School. She is also a teacher of piano music. Mrs. Josephine Gabbert has the distinction of having reared two families, her own and her father's family. She was the eldest of eight children, five daughters of whom are living. When her mother died she took charge of the home and practically mothered the entire family and assisted her sisters after her marriage.

Sarah Timmons Wilcox, mother of Mrs. Gabbert, was born December 16, 1858, in Indiana, and came to Nemaha county, Kans., in the early sixties with her parents, Nelson B. and Christina Timmons, who homesteaded land in this county. Mrs. Wilcox died in 1886. Nelson B. Timmons and his wife were among the founders of Lane University, the United Brethren School at Lecompton, Kans., founded in 1878. They gave \$225, the price of two scholarships in the university, and paid this money in 1863, at a time when money was not very plentiful in Kansas. Mrs. Christina Timmons is still living at Lecompton at the ripe old age of ninety-one years. She is still active and in full possession of her mental faculties. She is one of the leaders of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and is a great letter writer. Mrs. Timmons is one of the noted historical characters of Kansas.

Mr. Gabbert is a Democrat and is a member of the local school board. Mrs. Gabbert is a member of the Christian church.

**William S. McNeill.**—Fifty-six years have passed since the parents of William S. McNeill, large land owner of Corning, Kans., located in Nemaha county. This was the earliest pioneer era of the settlement and

development of Nemaha county, and Mr. McNeill is rightly one of the oldest pioneers of this county in point of years of residence. His parents were John and Sarah (Kepler) McNeill, natives of Ireland.

John McNeill, father of the subject of this review, was born in Monahan county, Ireland, April 15, 1818, and immigrated to America in 1842. He landed at New York City and went from there to Illinois, where he resided until 1859, when he migrated to Nemaha county, Kansas. While a resident of Illinois, John McNeill accumulated a forty-acre farm by the exercise of rigid economy and hard work. As soon as he had saved enough money after paying for his land he sent for his aged parents in Ireland and had them come to his home in Illinois. He showed his love and devotion to his parents by making them a gift of the forty acres, after which he again started west to make another home for himself. He landed in Kansas with three yoke of oxen and fifty cents in cash. He preempted the southwest quarter of section 17-4-12, Illinois township, which is located three miles southeast of Centralia in Nemaha county. His first cabin was a small affair, 16x12x6½ feet in dimensions, with no floor but the earth itself and built with a board roof. The family bedstead was made of forked sticks driven into the ground and poles laid lengthwise in the forks and across so as to support a straw filled bed ticking. His table was made in this manner: two holes were bored in a log in a side of the cabin, pins driven into the holes, and a wide board laid on the pins to serve as a table. Benches were used in this primitive home instead of chairs. Later, Mr. McNeill hauled the lumber from Atchison for his first frame house, using oxen as the motive power in transporting his lumber. The only lumber obtainable in those days was cottonwood. Lath were split out of oak logs. The house was roofed with shingles split from walnut logs. The walnut logs were first sawed into shingle blocks two and one-half feet in length and then split with a shingle flay. During the great drouth of 1860 the McNeill family lived on Irish potatoes for over a week while the head of the family was absent on a trip to Atchison for provisions. During one season, Mr. McNeill racked and bound eighty acres of wheat. A neighbor had forty acres of winter wheat and he had forty acres of spring wheat. He agreed with his neighbor to rack and bind his forty acres of winter wheat providing he would cradle his own forty acres of spring wheat. The bargain was struck and the feat performed to the satisfaction of both parties. During 1865 he had fifty acres of spring wheat that averaged thirty-one bushels to the acre. He sold this wheat crop from the threshing machine for \$2.50 per bushel.

John McNeill accumulated a total of 2,100 acres of land and owned large herds of horses and cattle. He was an extensive cattle feeder and usually had stock on hand for sale when the markets were paying a good price. At the time of his death he owned bank stock in the First National Bank of Centralia to the extent of \$8,000; owned stock in the Farmers State Bank at Corning to the amount of \$5,000; and held stock in a

Kansas City bank valued at \$2,000. His personal property amounted to over \$40,000. P. T. Casey, late of Corning, administered the estate and gave bonds for \$80,000.

Mr. McNeill was first married to a Miss Martin, who bore him three daughters, namely: Mrs. Lizzie Patterson; Eliza, wife of James Branden; Jane, wife of Charles Carl. His second marriage was with Mrs. Sarah Ensminger, who bore him seven children, as follows: Lenora, wife of John Cook, farmer and stockman, deceased; William S., married Theresa J. Cline, and is a subject of this review; Sarah Clementine, married John F. Randall, a farmer and stockman at Corning, who deals extensively in mules; John Edward, Oliver Perry, Louie Lafayette and Anne Elizabeth, deceased.

John McNeill was a Republican in politics and held the office of trustee of his township for seven years. He was several times asked to hold other important offices, but usually declined. At one time his friends tried to prevail upon him to allow his name to be presented as a candidate for Governor of Kansas, but he declined the great honor. Mr. McNeill was a well-educated man, being the eldest son of his father's family. He served as a member of the school board for many years and taught school at times in his younger days. He was a member of the Methodist church, with which denomination he became united when twelve years old. On several occasions he filled the pulpit of his old church when called upon to do so. The motto of this fine, old pioneer was "Yes," or "No," promptly and irrevocably when matters were presented to him for his decision. He never quibbled, but was always ready with an answer. He was prompt in his financial dealings, and expected the same course from those with whom he had business transactions.

William S. McNeill, with whom this review is directly concerned, was born in Illinois, September 12, 1856. He was reared to young manhood on the pioneer farm in Nemaha county, and at the age of twenty-six years, he rented land for himself for three years. He rented land near America City for another two years, and then located at Hiawatha, Kans., where he conducted an agency business for a year, followed by fifteen years experience in the real estate business at Corning, Kans. He then engaged in farming, but retained his home in Corning. At the present time, Mr. McNeill owns 1,040 acres of land in Nemaha county, most of which is located in Red Vermillion township. His farm land is being operated by his sons. He has fifty head of Aberdeen Angus cattle, twenty head of hogs and has fifteen acres of alfalfa.

Mr. McNeill was married, in 1885, to Miss Theresa J. Cline, who has borne him children, as follows: John, born in 1886, engaged in the real estate business at Kansas City, Mo.; Clark, born 1887, engaged in railroad work; Frank and Oliver, twins, born 1890; Joseph, born 1894; Ethel, born 1898; Weaver, born 1903; Teddy, born 1906; a child died in infancy. Frank, Oliver and Joseph are industrious and enterprising young farmers who are operating their father's large farm. The mother of the foregoing children is a daughter of Patrick and Bridget (Reilly) Cline.

Mr. McNeill is a Republican, and has served as a member of the Corning town council.

**John S. Butts**, owner of a farm of 320 acres in Reilly township and 160 acres in New Mexico, is a native of Kentucky and a son of William and Mary M. (Hansford) Butts, who were born and reared in Casey county, Kentucky. William Butts, his father, was born in 1836, and learned the trade of carpenter in his youth. He served as a Union volunteer in Company C, Eighth Kentucky cavalry during the Civil war. He left his native State in 1877, and came west to Holton, Kans., and worked at his trade in that city for five years. He then spent four years in Arkansas, and returned to Kansas, where he spent his remaining years with the exception of two years spent in Oregon. He was a member of the Methodist church, and was a Republican in politics. His wife, Mary M., was born in Kentucky, in 1837, and was married to William Butts in 1857. Five children were born to William and Mary M. Butts, as follows: Mrs. Mary Hunt, died in Oklahoma; John S., subject of this review; William, deceased; Mrs. Lizzie A. Bostwick, Bancroft, Kans.; the fifth child died in infancy.

John S. Butts, with whom this review is directly concerned, was born in Kentucky, December 5, 1865, and started out in life for himself when eighteen years old. He worked as farm hand until 1888, and then rented a quarter section of land for three years. He continued renting farm lands until 1895, at which time he bought eighty acres near Bancroft, and lived thereon for three years, after which he sold out and bought 640 acres in Sheridan county, Kansas. One year's residence was sufficient for him in Sheridan county, however, and he sold his large tract and returned to Nemaha county, purchasing 320 acres in Reilly township, which is his present home place. Mr. Butts is essentially a cattleman, and raises and feeds for the markets from 100 to 200 head of cattle annually. He was married, in 1890, to Miss Lucile McCormick.

Mr. Butts is allied with the Republican party, and is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

**William H. Smith.**—Much early Kansas history of an interesting character is contained in the chronicles of the Smith family of Nemaha county, Kansas. The father of William H. Smith, the gentleman concerning whom this review is written, was one of the earliest of the pioneers of the county, and figures prominently in the archives of the constructive period when the city of Seneca was in the building. William H. Smith has risen to become one of the wealthy land owners of Kansas, and his fifty years and more of residence in Nemaha county have been profitable ones from many standpoints.

John E. Smith, father of William H., was born at Saugus, Mass., October 27, 1829, and was a son of Stephen and Angeline (Cummings) Smith, both of whom were born and reared in Massachusetts, and whose ancestors were English born and among the earliest of the American colonists. Stephen Smith was a sawmill operator, and his trade was

transmitted to his sons. John E. Smith very naturally became a machinist and an expert sawmill man. Later he became a locomotive engineer, and was an engine driver in the early days of steam transportation. He spent some time in Mississippi, but left that State on account of an epidemic of yellow fever. In 1857, he met a Mr. Lappin, who had planned to set up a sawmill at the new town of Seneca, Kans. This gentleman engaged him to come west and erect the mill for him and place it in operation. Mr. Smith agreed to go into partnership with Lappin, and told him he knew of a mill in Massachusetts which they could obtain. He went after this mill, and had it shipped to Atchison, Kans., in the spring of 1858, and then hauled it by ox team to Seneca. He operated the sawmill in Seneca until after the war and sawed practically all the lumber which went into the construction of the frame buildings erected in the town. In the meantime, Mr. Smith sent for his family, who were accompanied by George W. Williams, at that time a boy. Mr. Smith sawed the lumber, built the first frame house and operated the first tavern in Seneca. It might be well to add here that Mr. Lappin, who was John E. Smith's partner in the milling business, was one of the original townsite promoters of Seneca, and that Mr. Smith brought his family to Seneca in 1858. The Smith Hotel, or "Tavern," became famous as the stopping place for all of the overland traffic, which took this route to the great West, and was a stage station where eight relay horses were kept at all times. The overland stage from Atchison to San Francisco passed on this route daily, and the drivers would stop at the Smith tavern, change horses or mules, and allow the travelers an opportunity to refresh themselves. The Smith Hotel had a country wide reputation for the excellent meals and the hospitality and good cheer afforded the weary travelers who were generally wealthy people, because of the great cost of transportation, the expense of a trip to the Pacific coast being in the neighborhood of \$400. Many notable people stopped at the Smith place during those early days before the advent of the steam railway. The "Smith Tavern" was erected in the winter of 1858, and served the purpose of a hotel, court room, church, and housed the first school ever held in Seneca. John E. Smith and his capable wife operated the tavern until as late as 1875 and then sold out. The tavern still stands on the main street of Seneca, although it has since been remodeled and now serves as a rooming house. After disposing of his hotel, John E. Smith turned his attention to farming, and became the owner of a half section of land which he improved. In 1881, he went to Canada, and became interested in a phosphorous mine, remained there eight years, and then settled permanently on his farm near Seneca. He died in 1912. This Kansas pioneer was married in his native State to Miss Agnes Williams, an aunt of George W. Williams, of Seneca, and the marriage was blessed with the following children: William H. Smith, with whom this review is directly concerned; Frank, deceased; two children died in infancy. The mother of William H. Smith was born in Vermont in 1831, and was a daughter of William and Mary Williams, who were descended from Scotch-Irish ancestry. She died July 23, 1894.



William H. Smith was reared in Seneca and attended the first school ever held in the city, taught by Miss Addie M. Smith, his father's sister. It is worthy of note that Miss Smith was the first lady to climb Pike's Peak in later years. He also attended the college at Jacksonville, Ill., for two years, and then devoted his attention to cultivating his father's farm. He farmed in partnership with his father from 1879 to 1892, at which time Mr. Smith bought his present home place of 360 acres. At first he lived in a small house on the place, which was superseded in 1898 by a pretentious farm residence erected at a cost of \$4,500. He also built a fine barn 48x38 feet in dimension at a cost for material of \$800. Mr. Smith is an extensive feeder of Shorthorn cattle and Duroc Jersey swine. The years have seen the prosperity of William H. Smith increase and have seen his acreage grow until he is now the owner of 790 acres of good Kansas land, 680 acres of which are located in Richmond township.

Mr. Smith was married, in 1885, to Miss Mary E. Amos, who has borne him four children, as follows: Frank E., connected with the American Screen Co., Kansas City, Mo.; Amos, farming the home place; Ruth, a high school teacher and graduate of the Seneca High School and Kansas State University; Agnes, a student in the Kansas University at Lawrence. Mrs. Mary E. (Amos) Smith was born April 24, 1862, at London, Ohio, and is a daughter of John A. and Ruth (Smith) Amos. Her father was a Methodist minister who came to Seneca in 1874, and erected the first Methodist church in the city. He died here in 1888, aged fifty-eight years. Her mother died January 17, 1896, aged over seventy years. Mrs. Smith taught school in Seneca for five years, previous to her marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith are members of the Methodist church, of which institution Mrs. Smith is a trustee. Mr. Smith is a Democrat, and is affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

**Albert Foster**, farmer of Red Vermillion township, is a son of A. J. and F. J. (Kirkpatrick) Foster, natives of Iowa and Kansas respectively. His father, A. J. Foster, was born in Iowa in 1855, and was reared to the life of a farmer. He came to Kansas with his parents in 1865, and began working on his own behalf when sixteen years of age. He worked as farm laborer and rented land until 1880, and then became a land owner. He farmed his land with excellent success until 1902, and then retired to a home at Corning, Kans. Mr. Foster is owner of 375 acres of improved farm lands in Nemaha county.

A. J. Foster was married, in 1880, to Miss F. J. Kirkpatrick, who was born in Kansas in 1860, and has borne him children, as follows: Albert, subject of this review; Mrs. Bessie Hannum, wife of a railroad man at Horton, Kans.; Mrs. Edna Johnson, whose husband is farming part of the home place of the Foster family; Freddie, died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Foster are members of the United Brethren church, and Mr. Foster is a Republican in politics.

Albert Foster was born in Nemaha county, November 14, 1881, and was reared on his father's farm. He began doing for himself at the age



of twenty years, and rented his father's home place for a period of five years. For the following three years, he was engaged in the livery business at Siloam Springs, Ark., He traded his livery business for a ranch in Oklahoma, which he operated for a year, and then traded his Oklahoma property for an 140 acre farm in Reilly township. He returned to his father's home farm in Nemaha county, and is at present farming his property. Mr. Foster is a large producer of Duroc Jersey hogs to the extent of over 200 hogs annually. He also raises about thirty head of Durham cattle yearly.

Albert Foster was married on February 24, 1904, to Miss Daisy Adams, a daughter of B. F. and M. J. (Longwell) Adams, the former of whom was born in Ohio in 1846, migrated to Iowa with his parents and served as a member of the Sixth Iowa infantry throughout the Civil war. He farmed in Iowa until 1882, and then came to Kansas, and for a time, he drove freight wagons in Washington county. He farmed in Marshall county, Kansas, for sixteen years, eventually sold out and bought a farm near Bancroft in Nemaha county. He cultivated this tract for five years, and sold it after which he traveled for his health. He is at present living at Canon City, Colo. His wife was born in Ohio in 1845, and was married to Mr. Adams in 1866. Mr. and Mrs. Adams are parents of the following children: Mrs. Hattie Love, Wetmore, Kans.; Charles, a farmer in Idaho; Edward, a carpenter and farmer at Blaine, Kans.; Mrs. Lillie Calvert, living on a farm in Iowa; Mrs. Maggie Leeson, whose husband is a merchant in Iowa; Mrs. Laura Nelson, living on a farm in South Dakota; Henry, a farmer near Bancroft, Kans.; Mrs. Rachel Holt, Goff, Kans.; Mrs. Della Storms, living on a farm in Colorado; Daisy, wife of Frank Foster; Frank, farmer in Colorado; Mrs. Ollie Moyer, living on a farm near Wetmore; Albert, a laborer living in Idaho. Mr. Adams is a Republican in politics.

Mr. and Mrs. Foster have two children: Verga Marie, born December 19, 1904, and Glenn Everett, born December 2, 1905. Mrs. Daisy Foster was born in Iowa, March 11, 1882. Mr. Foster is allied with the Republican party. Mr. and Mrs. Foster are a popular and energetic young couple who are making a success of their lives, and are highly respected in their home community.

**Daniel Hitchner**, retired farmer of Neuchatel township, was born in New Jersey, December 2, 1828, and was a son of Mathias and Sarah (Hannan) Hitchner, natives of New Jersey. Mathias Hitchner was born in 1784, and lived all of his life in the State of his birth, dying in 1876. His wife, Sarah, was born in 1784, and bore him thirteen children, seven of whom are living, as follows: Mrs. Susan Johnson, aged eighty-nine years, lives in New Jersey; Daniel, subject of this review; Adam, a retired farmer of New Jersey; Mrs. Elizabeth Woodruff, New Jersey; Jacob, a retired farmer of New Jersey; Mrs. Sarah Horner, living in New Jersey; Samuel, a farmer in Ohio.

When Daniel Hitchner was twenty-one years of age, he began work-

ing at the trade of carpenter in his own behalf, and followed this trade until 1880, with an exception of about five years during which he conducted a general merchandise store at Elmer, N. J. He migrated to Kansas in 1880, and bought 100 acres of farm land in Neuchatel township upon which he has since resided. Some time later he bought an additional quarter section but sold it to his son with whom he is making his home. Mr. Hitchner is one of the oldest citizens of Neuchatel township, and is enjoying good health at the advanced age of eighty-seven years. He is allied with the Democratic party, and has served as trustee of Neuchatel township. He was married, in 1855, to Emeline Du Bois, a daughter of Samuel and Mary (Johnson) Du Bois, both of whom were natives of New Jersey and members of old American families. The founder of the Du Bois family in America was Louis Du Bois, a Frenchman who came to America in about 1660, and established the French settlement of New Palz. Samuel Du Bois was born in Salem county, New Jersey, September 26, 1800, and died in May, 1873. He married Mary Johnson, who was born January 17, 1824, and died January 28, 1879. They were the parents of children, as follows. Adaline, wife of Jacob Kaeley, deceased; Mary Jane, wife of John Du Bois, Fairfield, Iowa; Lewis, a prominent pioneer citizen of Atchison county, Kansas; Emeline, wife of the subject of this review; Eliza, wife of A. Hitchner, deceased; Samuel Johnson, Salem county, New Jersey. Mrs. Emeline Hitchner was born in Salem county, New Jersey, in 1836. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Hitchner, as follows: Fidell G., a farmer with whom the elder Hitchner is making his home; Lillian, died at the age of eighteen years; Lewis, died at the age of sixteen years.

Fidell G. Hitchner was born in New Jersey in 1856, and has become owner of 200 acres of good farm land located in the same section, in which his father's home place lies. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and served as Sunday school superintendent for a number of years. He is a Progressive in politics, and for the past four years has served as clerk of Neuchatel township. He was married in 1879 to Miss Luella Miller, a daughter of Charles and Mary (Carlton) Miller, natives of Virginia. Charles Miller was born in 1824, and came to Kansas in 1877, residing here until his death in 1902. He was a member and a deacon of the Baptist church. Mr. Miller was a Democrat, politically, and filled the office of justice of the peace for several years. Charles and Mary Miller were parents of eight children, as follows: John, a farmer in Colorado; Mrs. Mary Sneddon, a widow living at Lebanon, Kans.; Luella, wife of Fidell G. Hitchner; Mrs. Belle Streepier, a widow living in Montana; Mrs. Della Werner, whose husband is operating a creamery at Corning; Mrs. Minnie McCafferty, wife of a United Brethren minister, Corning, Kans.; James, connected with the American Exporting Company, of Kansas City, Mo.; Mrs. Lucy Gentry, living on a farm in Oklahoma. Mrs. Mary (Carlton) Miller was born in 1834 in Indiana. She was a member of the Baptist church.

Mrs. Luella Hitchner was born in Missouri, September 18, 1858. To Mr. and Mrs. Fidell G. Hitchner have been born nine children, as follows: Mrs. Jennie Werner, wife of an automobile machinist, Denver, Colo.; Lewis, Curtis, and Hubert, engaged in farming and real estate business in British Columbia; Fidell, office employee of Ford Automobile Company, at Salt Lake City, Utah; Edith, George, May, Winifred, at home. Mrs. Hitchner is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

**J. A. Bonjour**, one of the largest land owners of Nemaha county, Kansas, and a resident of Neuchatel township, was born on the Bonjour home place in Neuchatel township, August 26, 1860, and is a son of J. A. Bonjour, Sr., a native of the canton of Neuchatel, Switzerland. J. A. Bonjour, Sr., was born December 29, 1830, and emigrated from his native land to America in 1852. He first located at Utica, N. Y., and went from there to Noblesville, Ind. He worked for a wage of \$8 per month on farms in the neighborhood of Noblesville, Ind., for three years, and then came to Leavenworth county, Kansas, in 1855. During the winter of 1855, he crossed the ice in the Missouri river at Weston, Mo., married the lady of his choice and returned to Kansas. After living on a homestead claim in Leavenworth county for one year, he sold out and came to Nemaha county and bought 160 acres in Neuchatel township, which served as his home until his death, December 29, 1878. For further particulars regarding the history of the Bonjour family in Nemaha county, the reader is referred to the biography of R. A. Bonjour.

J. A. Bonjour, the subject of this review, was reared to young manhood in Neuchatel township, and began making his own way when eighteen years of age. After his father's death, he farmed the home place until January, 1885, in partnership with his brother, and then engaged in the meat market business at Centralia, Kans., for a year. He then rented eighty acres one mile east of Centralia for a year. For two and a half years following, he lived with his brother, R. A. Bonjour, and rented land. His next farming venture was to rent 160 acres from his father-in-law until 1894, at which time his father-in-law died, and he and his wife inherited the home place. Mr. Bonjour has become owner of 470 acres of land in Nemaha county, and owns 520 acres in Pottawatomie county, Kansas. He tills all of his land excepting 160 acres which he rents to Charles Hazelett, his son-in-law. Mr. Bonjour has excellent improvements on his home place. He erected a handsome eight-room modern residence in 1909, at a cost of \$6,000. This fine country home is fitted up with heating and lighting systems with hot and cold running water in every bedroom, and is one of the finest residences in Nemaha county.

Mr. Bonjour was married September 9, 1885, to Mary L. Cox, born at Fairbury, Ill., September 10, 1864. She came to Kansas in 1884 to reside with an aunt, and shortly afterward, met Mr. Bonjour. Mrs. Bonjour died in June, 1886, at the birth of her son, Raymond R., who is now grown to manhood and employed as claim adjuster in the offices of the Home Telephone Company, Kansas City, Mo. The second marriage of

Mr. Bonjour occurred April 10, 1889, with Julia Theys, who has borne him children, as follows: Mrs. Rose M. Hazelett, on a farm in Nemaha county; Tunis, Rufus, and Sophie L., died in infancy; Gertrude Grace, a graduate of Campbell University at Holton, Kans., and a public school teacher; Goodlet Clarence, at home; Hazel, a student in the Onaga High School; Vira Leone, aged twelve years, graduated from common school with first honors, and Aletha Alberta. The mother of this fine family was born in Nemaha county, October 11, 1870, and is a daughter of Florent and Louisa (Vautravers) Theys, natives of Belgium and Switzerland, respectively. Florent Thayer, her father, was born in 1844, and immigrated to the United States in 1863. He worked on a saw mill in Wisconsin until 1865, and then came to Kansas, and was employed in the construction of the Central Branch railroad until 1869, when he took up a homestead claim of eighty acres, and lived thereon until 1880. He then sold out and bought a quarter section in Neuchatel township, upon which he lived until his death, July 12, 1894. Mr. Theys was killed in a runaway accident. At the time of his death, he owned 640 acres of land and much personal property. His wealth was sufficient, when divided, to enable each child of the family to purchase 160 acres of land. Mr. Theys was a Republican in politics and a member of the Presbyterian church. His wife, Louisa, was born in Switzerland, January 4, 1851. After the death of Mr. Theys, she was again married in 1902, and lives at Neuchatel, Kans. Mr. and Mrs. Theys were parents of five children, as follows: Julia, wife of J. A. Bonjour, born October 11, 1870, in Nemaha county; Mrs. Pauline McDebitt, on a farm in Nemaha county; Mrs. Mary Bonjour, deceased; Mrs. Isabella Kelly, living on a farm near Onaga; Simon, a farmer at Cottonwood, Kans.

Mr. Bonjour is a member of the board of managers of the Congregational church. He is a Republican politically, and served for three years as trustee of Neuchatel township and filled the office of treasurer one term. He filled the office of justice of the peace for twelve years, and is the present treasurer of school district No. 5. Mr. Bonjour is a member and treasurer of Lodge No. 188, of Onaga, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

**John Gurtler**, farmer, Neuchatel township, and extensive land owner, was born in Wisconsin, July 21, 1865, and is a son of Peter and Mary (Freidel) Gurtler, natives of Germany and Austria, respectively. Peter Gurtler was born in Germany in 1823, and emigrated from his native country to America in 1854. He located in Wisconsin and bought a forty acre farm which he farmed until the spring of 1873, when he migrated to Nemaha county, Kansas, and bought 200 acres in Neuchatel township. He lived on this farm until his demise in July, 1901. Mr. Gurtler prospered in this county, and continued to buy land until he owned 880 acres. He gave each son of the family 160 or 240 acres at the time of their respective marriages. He was a member of the Evangelical church and a Republican in politics. His wife, Mary, was born in Austria, in

1827, and died in 1900. Peter and Mary Gurtler were parents of nine children, as follows: Mathias, a real estate dealer living in Oklahoma; Rev. E. J. Gurtler, a preacher in Wisconsin; Mrs. Annie Dryer, a widow living in Topeka, Kans.; Peter J., a farmer in Marshall county, Kansas; Mrs. Mary Lampe, living in California; John, subject of this sketch; Joseph, a farmer in Nemaha county; two children are deceased.

John Gurtler began for himself when twenty-eight years old, remaining at home and working for his father even after he became of age until his marriage in 1893. Upon his marriage, his father gave him the deed to 240 acres of land upon which he has since resided. He has added to his acreage from time to time until he now owns 724 acres of good land, 200 acres of which he rents out to a tenant. Mr. Gurtler raises eighty-five head of cattle annually, and deals in mules and cattle extensively. Mr. Gurtler was married in 1893 to Sophia Lodholz, who has borne him children, as follows: Peter John, married and lives on the home place; Christina Susie, a student at Baker University, Baldwin, Kans.; George Nelson, died at the age of eighteen months; Albert Wesley, at home; Mary Estella, died at the age of four years. Mrs. Sophia Gurtler was born in Marshall county, Kansas, December 31, 1864, and is a daughter of Godfred and Christina (Seitz) Lodholz, natives of Germany. Godfred Lodholz, her father, was born in 1835, and emigrated from the fatherland in 1852. He first located in Connecticut, and worked in a lock manufactory at Terrywell until 1858, at which time he migrated to Marshall county, Kansas, and farmed until his death in 1896. He was a member of the Evangelical church and a Republican. His wife, Christina, was born in 1832, married in 1856, and died in 1901. Five children were born to Godfrey and Christina Lodholz, as follows: Mary, living in Marshall county, Kansas; Mrs. Annie Segenhagen, deceased; Mrs. Christina Seip, Marshall county, Kansas; Mrs. Rosa Gurtler, Marshall county, Kansas; Sophia, wife of John Gurtler, who was reared on a farm and worked in Denver, Colo., for three years at a wage of \$25 per month, prior to her marriage, and is an industrious woman.

Mr. Gurtler is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and is a Republican in politics. He and Mrs. Gurtler are well and favorably known in their section of the county and have many warm friends.

**Fred Pfrang**, prosperous farmer of Wetmore township, was born on a farm near Wetmore, Nemaha county, Kansas, January 25, 1877, and is a son of George and Mary (Gress) Pfrang, natives of Germany. George Pfrang, his father, was born in 1834. He located in Kansas after his immigration to the United States in the early pioneer days and followed farming until his retirement to a home at Wetmore in 1906. He is a member of the Catholic church. His wife, Mary, was born in 1845, and has borne him nine children, as follows: Michael, a farmer in Pottawatomie county, Kansas; Fred, subject of this review; Mrs. Freda Miller, wife of a dairyman, Denver, Colo.; Rose, wife of a farmer near Denver, Colo.; William, a farmer in Oregon; Mary, a stenographer, Kansas City, Mo.; George, Joseph, and John, farming near Wetmore, Kans.

Fred Pfrang was reared on his father's farm, and began doing for himself when he became of age. He worked out as farm hand until 1902, at which time he became owner of a quarter section of land in Wetmore township, northeast of Ontario, Kans., which is his present home place. Mr. Pfrang has increased his acreage until he now owns 500 acres in Wetmore township, and owns eighty acres in Jackson county, Kansas. He is an extensive cattle feeder, and raises over 100 head of hogs annually.

Mr. Pfrang was married January 1, 1915, to Miss Caroline Karns, born at Ontario, Kans., August 26, 1887, and a daughter of George and Caroline Karns, prominent deceased residents of Ontario whose biographies appear in this volume. Mrs. Caroline Pfrang received an excellent education and taught school for two years, previous to her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Pfrang have one child, namely: Lloyd, born December 6, 1915, a bright little fellow, who is a prime favorite. Mr. Pfrang is a member of the Catholic church and a Republican in politics.

**George C. Adriance and Dora Adriance.** owners and publishers of the Seneca "Courier-Democrat," were born on a farm four miles east of Seneca. George Adriance was born October 28, 1888. Miss Dora Adriance was born August 23, 1880. Their parents were Joseph and Mary (Todd) Adriance. Their father, Joseph Adriance, emigrated from Dutchess county, New York, in the spring of 1878, and settled on a tract of raw land in Adams township, Nemaha county. He improved this land and was married in September of that same year to Mary Todd, who came to Kansas by the overland route from Marion county, Ohio, with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Todd, soon after the close of the Civil war. The Todds located first in Capioma township, Nemaha county, and later moved to a farm on Tennessee creek, in Adams township. Mrs. Mary Adriance was educated in the Seneca schools, and taught for eight years in Nemaha county. Three children were born to Joseph and Mary (Todd) Adriance, as follows: Frank, born March 19, 1884, married in August, 1908 to Mary Moriarty of Seneca, lives on a farm near Blaine in Pottawatomie county, and has two children, namely: James Jay, aged six years, and Helen M., aged three years. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Adriance lived on their pioneer farm for twenty-three years when they sold it to R. L. Wheeler, and then purchased a small farm in the southwest part of Seneca, now owned by J. R. Baldwin. Both died during the same week in February, 1908.

George Adriance purchased the "Courier-Democrat" in August of 1909. In January of 1912, the newspaper plant was sold to G. W. Willis of Marysville, and in December of the same year, it was re-purchased by George and Dora Adriance, forming the partnership of Adriance & Adriance. The "Courier-Democrat" is an eight page, all home-print paper devoted to Nemaha county news, with particular attention given to the development of the city of Seneca, where it is published on Thursday of each week. George and Dora Adriance are not only publishing an ex-

cellent newspaper, which is well patronized by the people and merchants of Seneca and Nemaha county, but they are valued and valuable citizens in the community where they labor for the common good.

**F. J. Strathmann**, photographer of Seneca, Kans., is fast making a name for himself as an artist and photographer of ability. His business is growing each year, and his work in a difficult line is commending itself to an ever increasing circle of patrons. The greater number of the photographs used in making the half-tone plates of Nemaha pioneers and well known citizens which are found in this volume were made by Mr. Strathmann. The work speaks for itself and is to be commended particularly and strongly as indicative of the painstaking care in making the excellent likenesses so necessary for the use of the engraving department of this work, bestowed upon the subjects by Mr. Strathmann.

F. J. Strathmann was born at Fayetteville, Ill., August 26, 1892, and is a son of F. B. and Ida (Fietzan) Strathmann, natives of Illinois. F. B. Strathmann, his father, is a son of George Strathmann, a German emigrant, who was born at Nassau, Germany, and served as a government official in his home city in Germany. F. B. Strathmann learned the profession of photographer when a young man, and came to Kansas August 27, 1908. He located at Axtell, Marshall county, Kansas, and has an excellent business in his profession as photographer in Axtell and the surrounding country. F. B. Strathmann was married in Illinois to Ida Fietzan, who was born April 15, 1871. To this marriage have been born nine children, as follows: Frank J., subject of this review; Bertha, wife of Joseph Nolte, Hanover, Kans.; Joseph, Lydia, John, Edward Alma, Barbara and Albert.

Mr. Strathmann was educated in the public schools of Muscotah, Ill., and the Seneca, Kans., High School. He learned the art of photography under his father's tutelage, and in March, 1914, he purchased the Fowler photograph gallery in partnership with Joseph Nolte. October 1, 1914, Mr. Strathmann became sole owner of the establishment, and has since been conducting it very successfully.

He was married February 24, 1914, to Miss Anna Dultmeier of Templeton, Iowa, a daughter of Henry Dultmeier, a native of Germany. To this marriage has been born a child, namely: Frank Jr., born March 4, 1915. Mr. Strathmann is an independent in politics, and is a member of the Catholic church, and is affiliated with the Knights of Columbus.

**Willard M. Bostwick**, farmer and capitalist of Bancroft, Kans., was born in Fayette county, Ohio, April 16, 1861, and is a son of Francis M. (born 1838, died 1898) and Sarah J. (Smith) Bostwick, born 1840, died —. Francis M. Bostwick, his father, was born in Fayette county, Ohio, and was a son of Oliver Bostwick, a native of New York and a descendant of old American stock. Francis M. served ninety days in an Ohio regiment during the Civil war, and followed farming in his native State until 1879, at which time he migrated to Jackson county, Kansas, and bought a tract of prairie land thirteen miles west of Holton, Kans.



He improved a total of 320 acres of land and, in his old age, he retired to a home at Soldier, Kans., where he died. His widow resides at Holton. Mr. and Mrs. Francis M. Bostwick were parents of six children, as follows: Mary, wife of Joseph Polock, living in Jackson county; Sherman, residing in Ellis county, Oklahoma; John, a farmer living nine miles west of Holton; Mrs. Sadie B. Newman, living on a farm three miles west of Holton. The mother of these children was a daughter of John Smith, of Ohio. Oliver Bostwick, grandfather of Willard M., married Malinda Thomas, whose family genealogy traces back to the year 1625. She was a member of one of the oldest American families. The founder of the Thomas family in America was Thomas Thomas, a native of Wales, who settled on a plantation in Maryland as early as 1625. Jeremiah Thomas, a direct descendant of this colonial ancestor, served in the Continental army during the American Revolution. His descendants settled near Mt. Sterling, Ohio, during the early settlement period of Ohio's history. Melinda Thomas Bostwick was born March 25, 1816, in Pickaway county, Ohio, and died at Mt. Sterling, Ohio, July 14, 1885.

Willard M. Bostwick, subject of this review, was educated in the schools of his native county in Ohio, and accompanied his father to Kansas in 1879. He began doing for himself at the age of twenty-three years and rented land for a year. He then bought an eighty acre tract on time. He improved his land and farmed it for seventeen years, and then moved to a farm two miles south of Bancroft in Nemaha county where he and Mrs. Bostwick own eighty acres, well improved. Two years later he and Mrs. Bostwick moved to a comfortable home at Bancroft.

Mr. Bostwick has been twice married. His first marriage took place in 1884 with Miss Cornelia Caroline Shackles, who was born in Illinois in 1861 and died October 10, 1894. His second marriage took place in 1896 with Mrs. Lizzie A. Dick, widow of Archibald Dick. Mrs. Bostwicks maiden name was Lizzie A. Butts, and she was born in Casey county, Kentucky, August 17, 1858, and is a daughter of William Green Butts, a veteran of the Civil war who came to Kansas in 1877. She was married to Mr. Dick in 1878, and they resided on a farm in Nemaha county until Mr. Dick's death in 1893.

Mr. Bostwick is a director of the State Bank of Bancroft and a member of the discount board. He is a Republican in politics and served as trustee of his home township in Jackson county prior to his removal to Nemaha county. He is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Bancroft, and is one of the well liked and enterprising citizens of his home neighborhood.

**Ernest N. Bailey**, proprietor of the grain elevator at Baileyville, Kans., was born in York township, Carroll county, Illinois, June 15, 1857, and is a son of Monroe and Nancy J. (Melendy) Bailey, who were among the earliest of the pioneer settlers of Nemaha county, Kansas, coming to this county from Illinois in 1879 and settling in Marion township. Monroe and Nancy Bailey were parents of four children. Ex-



Governor Willis J. Bailey of Atchison is a son of this worthy couple, and Ernest N., subject of this review, is the third in order of birth.

Ernest N. Bailey attended the district schools of Carroll county, Illinois, and when he was seventeen years old, he attended the college at Fulton, Ill. He began teaching school in 1876 in his home county in Illinois and taught for three years. He then engaged in farming with his father and accompanied the family to Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1879. Upon the death of his parents he became heir to a quarter section of land which he owned until 1911, when he sold the tract for \$125 an acre. This sale price was the highest amount per acre paid for land in Marion township up to that time. Mr. Bailey embarked in the grain business at Baileyville in 1893, in partnership with W. H. Connet. Previous to this time, he had been engaged in the buying and shipping of live stock. He remained in partnership with Mr. Connet for eighteen years. In 1900, he erected a grain elevator at Baileyville, and in 1910, the partnership existing with Mr. Connet was dissolved. Since 1910, Mr. Bailey has carried on the grain business very successfully on his own account. He maintains another grain elevator at Home City in Marshall county, Kansas, and also owns 160 acres of land in Marshall county besides property in Baileyville.

Mr. Bailey was married in Carroll county, Illinois, November 27, 1880, to Gertrude L. French, who was born in Warren county, New York, May 10, 1850, and is a daughter of David and Ruth (Dunn) French who immigrated to Illinois in the sixties. Mr. and Mrs. Bailey have no children of their own, but have reared two boys and one girl to maturity.

Mr. Bailey is a Republican in politics, and has held various township offices. He is a member of the Baptist church.

**Ralph Tennal**, historian of this volume of Nemaha county historical annals and editor and proprietor of the "Sabetha Herald," was born at Leavenworth, Kans., February 7, 1872. He is a son of Randolph and Rebecca (Sperry) Tennal, who were southern born. Randolph Tennal lived in Goliad county, Texas, prior to his removal to Leavenworth, Kans., in 1860. Ralph Tennal's grandfather had received a large land grant for making or assisting in making a government survey of Texas in the early days. Mr. Tennal was employed as a mine superintendent at Leavenworth until his death in 1874. Mrs. Rebecca (Sperry) Tennal, mother of Ralph Tennal, was born in Kentucky in 1836, and died in 1892.

The childhood days of Ralph Tennal were mostly spent in a typical prairie "schooner" in which the family resided for some time after his birth in Kansas, and he was "moved around" considerably in this covered wagon. He was forced to hustle for his own living when very young, and was employed for eight years as telegraph messenger boy, two years of which service were spent in Atchison, Kans., where he learned the trade of printer. He began as "printer's devil" when ten years old and proved to be an apt pupil. He spent his first two years in Hull's printing office at Atchison, after which he was employed on

the Atchison "Globe," under the wise management of Ed Howe for seventeen years. Ralph Tennal proved to be an apt learner under one of the most capable and famous newspaper men of the Middle West, and made good with Ed Howe's great newspaper. After serving for seventeen years on the staff of the "Globe," he bought a newspaper at Colfax, Iowa, the "Colfax Tribune," which he operated until his purchase of the "Herald" at Sabetha, Kans., in 1905. Four prosperous years were spent in editing and publishing the "Herald," and he then began to yearn for other fields. He sold the "Herald" in 1909, and for the next four years, ably filled the post of editor of the Kansas City "Weekly Star." After one year spent on the Pacific coast engaged in newspaper work, Mr. Tennal came to the conclusion that there was no town on earth as good as Sabetha, and no county which offered a better field for his labors than Nemaha county. Accordingly, he re-purchased the "Herald" in 1914, and made up his mind to remain in Sabetha for all time to come. The Sabetha "Herald" is known throughout the length and breadth of Kansas as a real, live newspaper, ably edited with a snap and tang to it which appeals to the average reader. The "Herald" is a loyal and consistent booster for Nemaha county and this section of Kansas, and Mr. Tennal has won his way through merit and sheer energy to a place in the front rank of Kansas journalists. This History of Nemaha County is the result of many weeks of painstaking labor and research on his part and that of his devoted and capable wife.

Mr. Tennal was married in 1898 to Miss Margie Webb, born at Menomonie, Wis., a daughter of Judge W. D. and Fannie (Perkins) Webb, natives of New York. The Webb family first located in Wisconsin and then came to Atchison, Kans., in 1877. Judge Webb practiced law in Atchison and served two terms as judge of the district court of Atchison county. Mrs. Tennal was employed as society reporter on the "Atchison Globe," and is a capable newspaper woman who has been a valuable assistant to her husband in his journalistic labors. Much of the research work and the writing of these historical annals of Nemaha county was done by Mrs. Tennal, and she should share equally with her husband the honors due them for recording for all time the story of Nemaha county. Mr. and Mrs. Tennal have one child: William Webb, born in January, 1902.

Mr. Tennal espoused the cause of the Progressive party when this political organization came into being, and has consistently remained a progressive in every sense the word "progressive" implies. He has been one of the leaders of the Progressive party in Nemaha county and Kansas since 1912, and has consistently and continuously advocated progressive principles of government at all times.

**Jesse K. Biles**, retired capitalist and large land owner of Bern, Kans., was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, July 21, 1841. He was a son of Charles C. and Elizabeth C. (Jackson) Biles, natives of Pennsylvania. Charles C. Biles, his father, was born October 22, 1818,

and died in 1803. Elizabeth C. (Jackson) Biles, his mother, was born in 1822, and died in 1860. They were parents of nine children, as follows: Jesse Kersey, Charles Edward, William J., Sarah L., Margaret E., and Anna Biles, living; and John Bailey Biles, born December 15, —, and died September 18, 1909; Mary Emma, born November 10, 1844, and died January 20, 1848; Phoebe Ann, born June 8, 1853, and died in December, 1886. Job Jackson, uncle of Jesse K. Biles, was president and manager of Jackson and Sharp, manufacturers of Pullman cars at Wilmington, Del. John Biles, his grandfather, was born at New London, Pa., in 1784, and died September 23, 1864. Mary Biles, grandmother of the subject, was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, in 1784, and died March 23, 1861.

Charles C. Biles moved to Harford county, Maryland, when Jesse K. was quite young, and bought a farm adjoining Mill Green. He built a large mill on this farm and became well-to-do and prominent in the affairs of the community. He was a strong Republican, and served as postmaster for thirty years. Originally, Charles C. Biles was a plumber by trade. Jesse K. Biles remained on his father's farm until 1868, and was married to Miss Victorine L. Miles, October 22, 1867. Mr. and Mrs. Biles then came to Nebraska in the spring of 1868. They came from Macon, Mo., to Rulo, Neb., by boat on the Missouri river, then took a stage to Falls City, Neb., and remained there all night at the Jacob Good Hotel. Mr. Good then took the young couple to the Miles ranch in his carriage, which was the first carriage ever used in Richardson county, Nebraska, and the only one in the county at that time. S. B. Miles, father-in-law of Jesse K. Biles, came to the West in 1850, and carried mail by stage and horseback from Independence, Mo., to Salt Lake City, Utah, until 1860. He had many encounters with the Indians, and died in 1898, leaving a vast fortune of \$6,000,000, which included 42,000 acres of land and four banks. After many years of traveling in the West, he settled on the Miles ranch in Nebraska. Mr. Biles rented a farm from S. B. Miles, and being poor in those days, he used chains for tugs, rope for lines, and a sack for the back part of the harness used in doing the farm work with his team. While living on the farm, two sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. Biles, namely: William C., born February 6, 1870, and died August 21, 1870; Warren C., born March 30, 1871, and died August 10, same year. Mr. and Mrs. Biles then adopted an infant daughter, Marion Kathrene Biles, born February 24, 1871. They also reared two orphan boys and gave them a start in life.

When Mr. Biles came to Nebraska there were very few settlers, only a few homesteaders and the nearest market was at St. Joseph, Mo. His first crop of corn was sold for nine cents per bushel. About once a week, a band of Indians going through the country would camp in the timber on the Miles ranch, and hold their pow-wow and war dances. The Indians were generally peaceful and traveled with their ponies hitched to their tent poles, and the papooses also strapped to the ponies. The pro-

cession of Indians and ponies sometimes being a mile long. The Indians would trade a good buffalo robe for a fat dog to eat, and many times begged tobacco of Mr. Biles. When the hot winds blew, Mr. Biles often wished he was back in Maryland, but after awhile, he got used to the winds and liked the country. He eventually bought 166 acres of land in Nemaha county and broke it for planting in 1874. He erected a small shack on his land, but prosperity and good times did not come for some time. He sold hogs for \$1.50 per hundred weight, corn for ten and fifteen cents per bushel; and at one time his best cows would bring only from \$8 to \$10 per head. A good horse would only bring \$40. When Mr. Biles bought his farm in Kansas, he paid \$12.50 an acre for the land, but a few years afterward, the price of land dropped to \$5 and \$8 an acre. He worked very hard to get his corn paid for and often worked night and day to make ends meet. Many people left the country because they thought it was no good, but Mr. Biles stayed and got his place paid for at a time when it was just as hard to pay \$12.50 an acre for land as it is to pay \$100 an acre for it now. The average wages in those days were from thirty to fifty cents per day, whereas wages are now from twenty-five to forty cents per hour for the same work, and many people claim they can not make a living now-a-days. After a few years on the farm he moved back to the Miles ranch, leased the ranch for three years, and for the next five years, served as manager of the ranch at a salary of \$125 per month. He then moved to Kansas and located on his own farm, and to the present day has accumulated 1,000 acres of land in Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, and Colorado. Mrs. Biles departed this life July 29, 1896. Mr. Biles continued to live on his farm, and on April 7, 1899, was again united in marriage with Miss Emily Ethel Miller. To this union, a daughter has been born, namely: Pansy Lu Verna Biles, born June 14, 1900. Mrs. Emily Biles is a daughter of William Miller, born in Colegrunth, Germany, October 13, 1833, came to America in 1856 in a sailing vessel, leaving Germany, April 15, and arriving at New York City, June 6. Mr. Miller enlisted in the Union army for service in the War of the Rebellion on August 20, 1862, and was a member of the One Hundred Fifty Illinois infantry. He enlisted at Camp Douglas, Chicago, and served two years and six months. He received his honorable discharge at Nashville, Tenn. He was married to Margaret Spach in 1867. She was born in Eurville, Alsace, German Empire, April 7, 1844, and came to America in 1867, and the Millers moved to Kansas in 1872. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Miller, as follows: Fred W.; A. H.; W. D.; Mary A.; Emily E.; Lucy B., and Christian, died in infancy. In 1901, Mr. Biles moved to Bern, Nemaha county, Kansas, and engaged in the real estate business, which he followed until 1913, when his health failed, and he retired from active business pursuits.



